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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

February 11th, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number 6 ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 17, Number 6 **February 11th, 1982**

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About the Cover—

Bluefish, long the economic backbone of recreational angling in the Northeast, are once again being threatened with commercial exploitation. See the important editorial on page 4 for details on how you can help prevent it from happening.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **WORLD RECORD STRIPED BASS**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Fred Golofaro, EDITOR
Carolyn Brewer, ART DIRECTOR
Rich S. Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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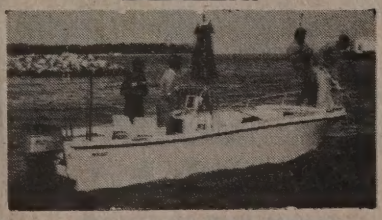

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EDITORIAL:

BLUEFISH CRISIS

Please read this editorial carefully. We have just learned that the Northeast Region of the National Marine Fishery Service has filed a comment on the recently submitted Bluefish Management Plan. This comment was sent to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fishery Management Council. The result of the comment will be to force the Mid-Atlantic Council to once again discuss the future of the Bluefish Plan. It is possible that the Plan will be discarded.

The National Marine Fishery Service comments essentially indicated that the management of bluefish should be taken up by the State/Federal programs instead of the Mid-Atlantic Council. If the Council and National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) in Washington go along with this recommendation, it will effectively delay the implementation of a Bluefish Plan for at least several more years. To compound matters, we have heard rumors that the tuna fleets, which may have their tuna harvest restricted by a moratorium, are looking towards the exploitative harvest of bluefish for sale to other countries. This is precisely what recreational fishermen have been fearful of.

It has been a few years since the large turnouts at public hearings on bluefish convinced the Council and NMFS that we, the recreational fishermen, are dead serious about protecting bluefish. The fact of the matter is that we need a Bluefish Managment Plan in the very near future before new harvest techniques are perfected and before new foreign bluefish markets are developed. Perhaps the government has forgotten how we feel, and it is time to remind them.

It is imperative that we remind these agencies of our convictions and commitments before the next meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Council. If you love to catch bluefish and want them protected you can help NOW! Please write letters to the following addresses and send copies of each to us at The Fisherman. Tell them you expect a Bluefish Plan to be reported out of the Mid-Atlantic Council and that you expect support from the National Marine Fishery Service.

Tell them how important bluefish are to your sport or your business AND TELL THEM TODAY!

Allen Peterson
Director, NE Region
National Marine Fishery Service
14 Elm Street
Gloucester, MA 01939

John Bryson, Director
Mid-Atlantic Fishery Mgt. Council
Rm. 2115, Federal Bldg.
N. and New Streets
Dover, Del 19901

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Pass It On...

FISHERIES CONTROVERSIES AND CONFLICTS SUBJECT OF 1982 MRF SYMPOSIUM

Socio-economic, political, psychological and biological controversies and conflicts in marine recreational fisheries will be the theme of the 7th Annual Marine Recreational Fisheries (MRF) Symposium to be held at the Bahia Mar Hotel and Yachting Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on May 10 and 11, 1982.

The two-day Symposium will feature four panels composed of experts in the fisheries and fisheries-related fields who will analyze the nature of conflict, review current and historical examples of conflict in specific fisheries, and examine the state of the art of conflict resolution. The meeting will be directed toward developing innovative and active responses, on the individual, collective and institutional levels, to marine fisheries conflicts, now and in the future.

Panel I will deal with the topic on a conceptual basis, dissecting the common understanding of controversy and conflict from several perspectives.

Panel II will present general case studies, including reef fish controversies (fish traps, trawls, etc.), redfish and seatrout (netting, sport vs. commercial users), and national park controversy (resource allocation, preservation vs. multiple-use concepts, etc.).

Panel III will assess ongoing research, focusing on specific problems and the steps taken for resolution. Topics include conflicts in understanding; user-group conflicts regarding longlining and billfish, and the harvesting of redfish and trout; and instutional conflicts such as drafting fishery management plans under the terms of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Panel IV will be oriented toward conflict resolutions, including the political realities for dealing with conflict, mediation and other conflict resolution techniques, organizing public constituencies for change, and future areas of conflict in marine recreational fisheries.

The Symposium is sponsored by the National Coalition for Marine Conservation, the International Game Fish Association, the Sport Fishing Institute, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Advance registration fee (prior to April 15, 1982) is $20, and includes attendance at all sessions, luncheon with a featured speaker, refreshments and a materials packet. A complimentary hardbound copy of the proceedings will be distributed to all registrants upon publication. More information and registration and hotel reservation forms available. Write: MRFS, Box 23298, Savannah, GA 31403; or call (912) 234-8062.

AMERICAN LEAGUE OF ANGLERS ELECTS KOTIS

The Board of Directors of the Washington-based American League of Anglers has announced the election of R.J. "Dick" Kotis of the Fred Arbogast Company, Inc., Akron, Ohio, to the office of President.

During his many years as a fishing tackle manufacturer, Dick has served as an active spokesman for improved fisheries and aquatic environment through organizations such as the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association, the Sport Fishing Institute, the International Game Fish Association, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

The American League of Anglers was founded in 1973 to provide fishermen and their organizations a voice in the political decisions affecting sport fishing and the resources upon which it depends. The objective of the ALA is "to create an awareness of, and responsiveness to, the opinions and desires of American sport fishermen in the minds of government administrators, elected representatives and officials, at both the state

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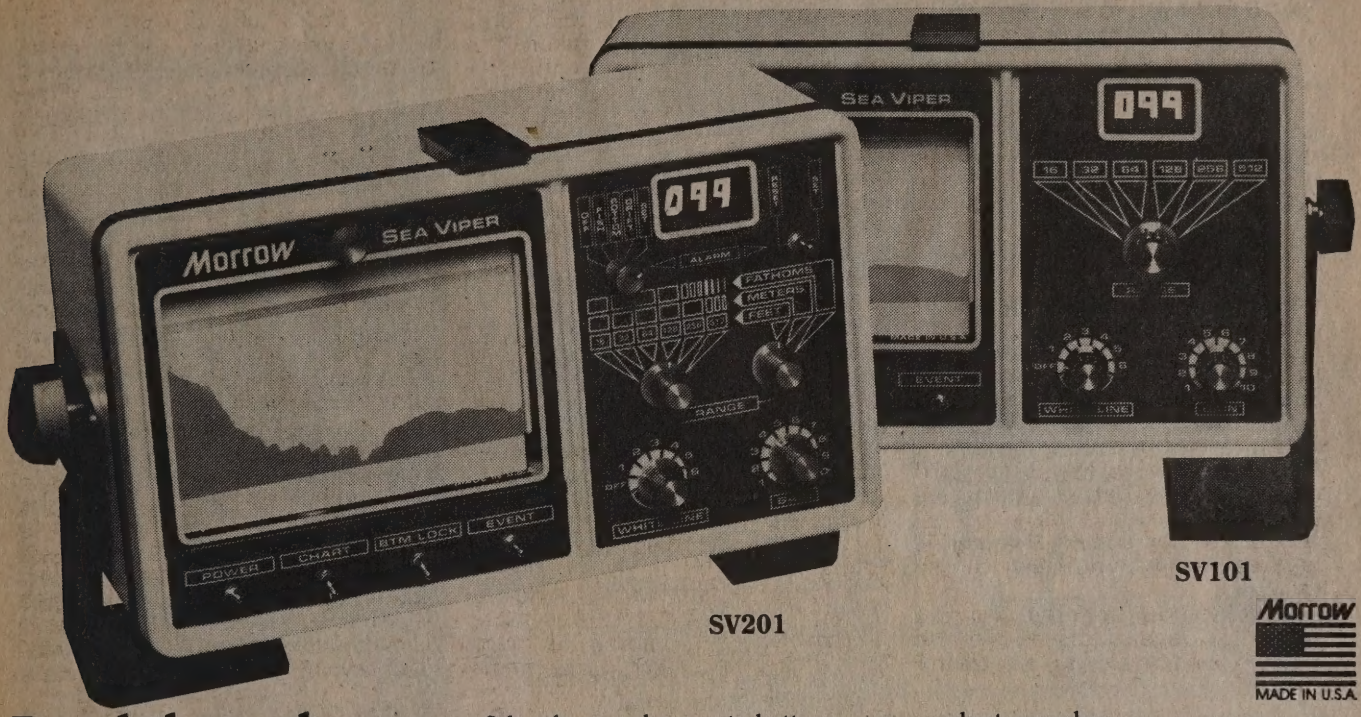

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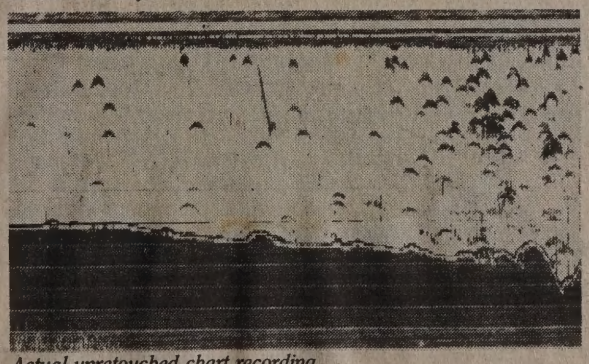
The wide beam gives you a valuable "look-ahead" feature, allowing earlier detection of bottom changes and fish. With the Morrow 50Khz you can even see your downriggers. And identifiable fish echoes and accurate bottom readings are possible at even higher speeds.

What's more, after several years of field testing under all conditions, pro fishermen all over the country unanimously agree that these units are superior to anything on the market today.



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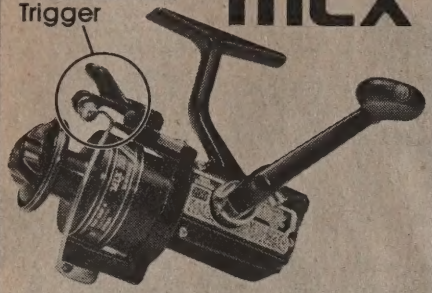

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and federal levels." The League serves as a collective lobby for sport fishing and the many organizations within sport fishing.

Recent efforts of the ALA have been responsible, in part, for establishing the 200 mile limit, doubling the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, passing the Clean Water Act of 1977, the protection of Alaskan fishing waters, and the de-authorization of the Dickey Dam on the St. John's River in Maine.

Current issues on the legislative agenda include reducing acid rain (Clean Air Act), expansion of the Dingell-Johnson Fund, and protecting streams and wetlands by defending the 404 permit program for dredge and landfill activities (Clear Water Act).

Your support of this important "voice of fishermen" in Washington is encouraged. Input by individuals or organizations should be directed to:

American League of Anglers
810 18th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Eileen Barthelmy, Exec. Dir.

ATLANTIS ANGLERS ELECTS OFFICERS

The Atlantis Anglers held their election of officers at their last regular meeting. Congratulations to the new officers as follows:

President: Steve Grasso
Vice Pres: Peter Martin
Record. Sec'y: Blanche Goodman
Treas: John Oppenheimer
Fishing Comm: Mark Kaufman and Bob (Fuzzy) Wengler
Public Relations: Allan Zaretsky
Entertainment: Tom Chuchran

The next regular meeting will be held on February 23, 8PM, at the Salty Bay Yacht Club, 180 Westside Ave., Freeport. Anyone wishing to become a member, please contact Walter Lustberg, 516-223-2443 after 7PM.

LIBBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

There will be a Long Island Beach Buggy Association Board of Directors meeting at Bondi's Tavern, Montauk Highway, Patchogue on February 11th, 8PM. Anyone interested in the functions of this organization may attend.

For more information call 261-9767.

STRIPER SURF CLUB OPEN HOUSE

The Striper Surf Club, Inc., is holding its annual Open House on February 26, 1982, 8:30PM, at The Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant on Hempstead Turnpike in Franklin Square.

This function will be of interest to the novice as well as the advanced surf fisherman.

We have an excellent speaker who will give a talk on surf fishing and techniques which will be followed by a question-and-answer period. A film will be shown and demonstrations in rod building, reels and reel repair,

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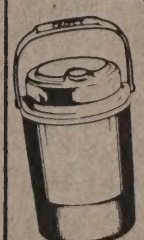

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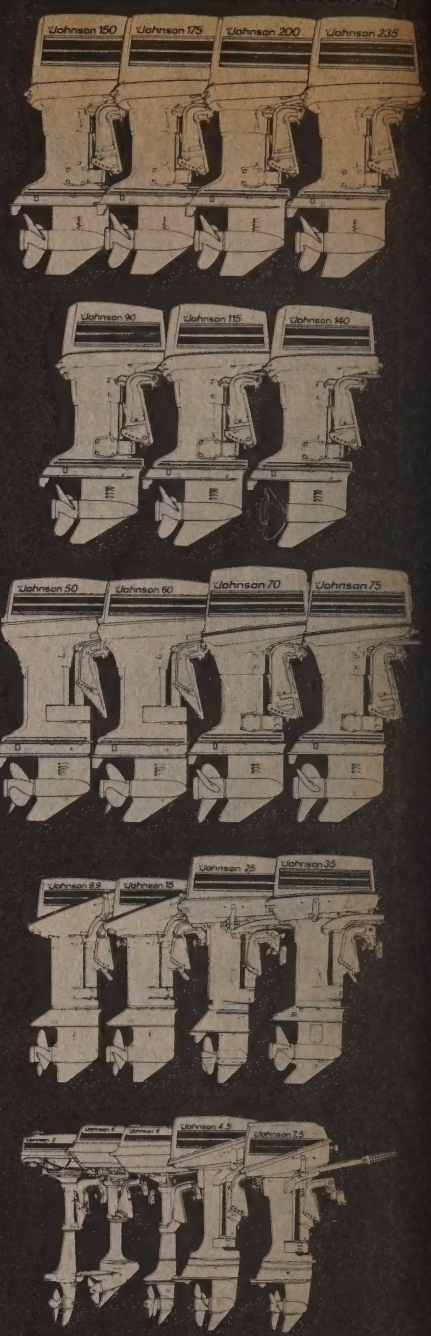

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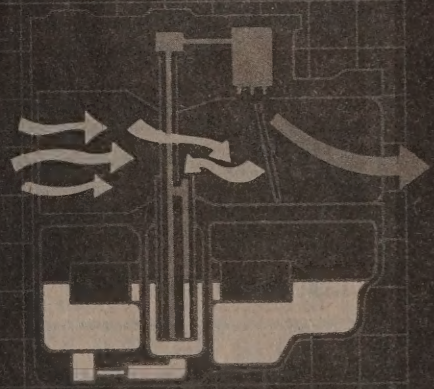

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Beer will be served and no minors will be admitted. Reservations are a must and the numbers to call are: John Kaye, (212) 853-0121 and Mike Kaland, (515) 868-7402. Weekdays from 7-10PM and weekends 6-10PM.

There is no charge for this event and people are urged to call early, as the hall will only hold 125 people.

IGFA ANNOUNCES FINAL ANGLING RULE CHANGES

The only major change in the International Game Fish Association's International Angling Rules for world record fishing, effective January 1, 1982, concerns the length of leaders and double lines for **saltwater** light-tackle fishing.

In all line classes up to and including 20 lb. (10 kg), the double line will now be limited to 15 ft. (4.57 meters). Leaders in use for these line classes shall also be limited to 15 ft. If both a double line and leader are used, the combined maximum length shall not exceed 20 ft. (6.1 meters).

On all classes of saltwater tackle above 20 lb. (10 kg), maximum double line and leader lengths will remain the same as last year—30 ft. (9.14 meters), with the combined length of double line and leader limited to 40 ft. (12.19 meters).

In the "Angling Regulations" sections for both line class and fly fishing, the following statement has been added: "The angling rules and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed." Under acts which will disqualify a catch, "attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish" has been added.

Under **World Record Requirements,** two additions have been made to the section on "Weighing Requirements for Record Fish." They are:

1. Only weights indicated by the graduations on the scale will be accepted. Visual fractionalizing of these graduations is not allowed.

2. In extremely remote areas where no weighing scales are available, it will be permissible for the angler to use his own scales providing that they are of a quality type and have been properly certified both before leaving and after returning from the fishing trip.

The only other major change involves the establishment of new line and tippet classes for saltwater record fishing, announced in the September/October, 1981 issue of the **International Angler.** For more information, write to IGFA, 3000 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316 USA.

SOUND SURF FISHING CLUB

Sound Surf Fishing Club's 1981 surf fishing results are as follows:

Striped Bass: Joe Russo - 45.8; Sal Inzone, 45.0.

Bluefish: Frank Meyer, 14.4.

Weakfish: Frank Meyer, 14.8.

Club Champion: Joe Russo, 780 pts.

The Club is now accepting applications for the upcoming season. We are looking for people who would like to participate in club activities. For more information, call Frank Meyer at 588-2672 after 6PM.

FINLEY LEADS SLATE OF USPS NATIONAL OFFICERS —SAILORS DOMINATE BRIDGE FOR FIRST TIME!

Raymond A. Finley, Jr., of Chatham, N.J., was elected Chief Commander of U.S. Power Squadrons (USPS) at the private boating organization's 68th annual meeting.

Elected for one-year terms with Finley were Bruce M. Steere, of Dallas, executive officer; Robert S. Roscoe, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., director of education; and Richard W. Miner, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., administrative officer.

The remaining officers on the National Bridge are John R. Behrens, of Deerfield Beach, Fla., secretary; and John C. Ellsworth, Fayetteville, N.C., treasurer.

The chief commander and five vice commanders were elected by over 1,000 delegates attending the annual gathering from more than 450 squadrons throughout the United States and abroad.

Four of the six national officers, including Finley, are sailors, helping to dispel the myth that USPS is

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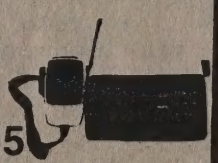

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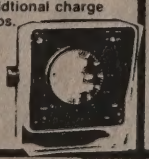

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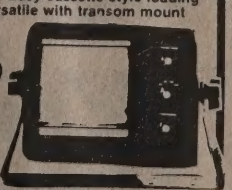

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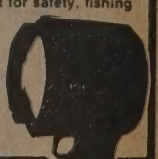

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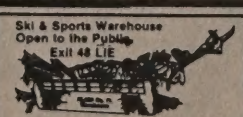

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Get reliability proven by 10,000,000* user hours. And a free steer computed course option.

The TI 9000A Loran C receiver gives you both for only $1295.

The TI 9000A Loran C receiver is one of the most accurate and reliable navigation aids you can own.

After more than four years in service and 10,000,000 user hours, its performance record is outstanding. And highly acclaimed. The TI 9000A won the 1980 NMEA Award for Loran C, Basic TD.

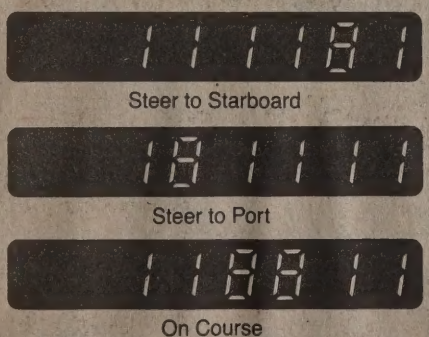
Very affordable, the fully automatic, computer-controlled TI 9000A rapidly searches and tracks the master and up to four secondaries. It displays all time differences (TDs) sequentially, the two TDs you need for your position, or one TD continuously. The TD storage function lets you easily return to a previous location. Plus, four internal notch filters are provided to suppress interference.

*Figure is an estimate based on average owner/vessel usage data from industry sources.

Free steer computed course option

If you take delivery of a TI 9000A Loran C receiver between January 4 and April 30, 1982, you will receive a steer computed course option absolutely *free* (installation not included).

A $295 value, it helps keep you on course to your destination. Simply enter TDs corresponding to your destination. The TI 9000A automatically computes your course and displays a steering indication relative to the constant Loran gradient course between the two points.



Steer toward the "8" until "88" appears, indicating you are on course.

Don't miss the boat

Be sure you stay on course. Take advantage of this special, limited-time offer. At only $1295, that's the sensible course of action.

For more information and a demonstration, see your nearest authorized Texas Instruments dealer. He is factory supported to provide you with installation, operating assistance, and service. Ask for a detailed brochure or write: Texas Instruments Incorporated, Marine Products, P.O. Box 405, MS 3438, Lewisville, Texas 75067.

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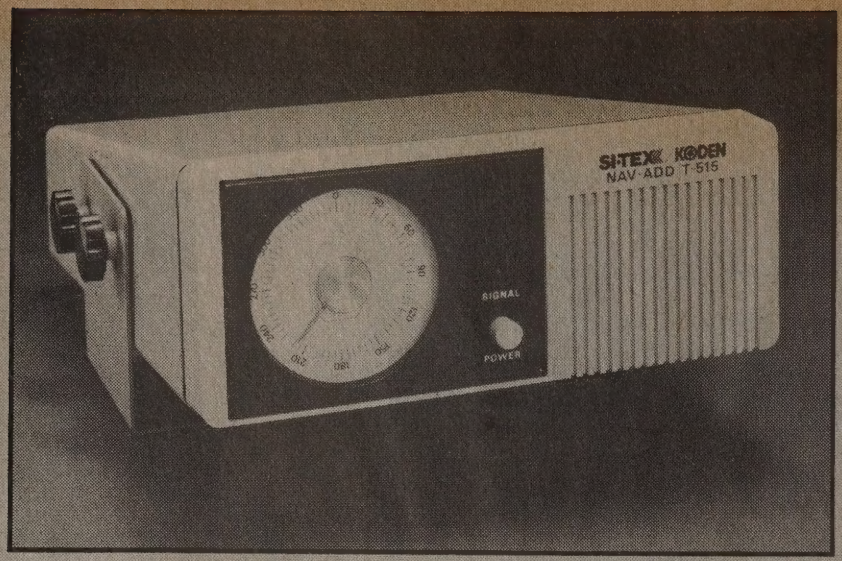

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The NAV-ADD 515 VHF/ADF adaptor is a computer controlled direction finder that operates with existing VHF/FM radios to indicate positions of other vessels and coastal transmitting stations. Pointer on 360° azimuth scale indicates relative bearing within one second of signal reception. Bearing accuracy is ± 5°.

Adaptor can be used with any VHF/FM radio by means of connecting cables. No modification of your existing radio is required. Adaptor can be mounted directly to most transceivers to form integral ADF/radiotelephone unit. DF antenna is included.

For full color brochure and the name of your nearest dealer, write SI-TEX, P.O. Box 6700, Clearwater, FL 33518.

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primarily for power boaters. This election is believed to be the first time in the 68-year history of the organization that a majority of the National Bridge favors wind-driven vessels.

Founded in 1914 and now headquartered in Raleigh, N.C., USPS boasts a membership of 55,000. The organization's best known civic contribution is its 10-week Safe Boating Course which has been attended by more than 2½ million people.

Through its Cooperative Charting program, USPS also is a major contributor of information to help assist the National Ocean Survey correct and update its more than 1,000 nautical charts of our country's navigable waterways.

MAN GRABS HAWK!

Bob Amato of Whitestone, New York is the winner of the Unimetrics "Sea Hawk 14" VHF radio (courtesy of Shane's Marine of Island Park and Babylon) raffle that was held at The Long Island Fisherman booth at the recent New York Boat Show. Hopefully, we'll be holding similar free raffles at boat shows in the future.

SITUATION WANTED BY CAPT. RON LEPPER OF "KIM"

Captain Ron Lepper has sold his Atlantic Beach charter boat "Kim" and is looking for new and different fishing related activities. Ron worked as a dock boy at Stella Maris at age 12, then began commercial fishing at 14 for sea porgies and blues at Breezy Point. Ron has surf fished all over L.I., R.I., and the Cape and most of his trolling lures were designed after surf lures. He's worked on a commercial dragger and skimmer clam boats, mated on and run party boats out of Sheepshead Bay, run charter boats for others and, for the last 25 years, chartered on his own boat. Also, with a background as an outdoor writer, lecturer, manufacturer of saltwater lures, inventor and innovator of lures, 10 years of P.R. work for Garcia, tackle tester and advisor for large companies, boat builder and gill netter, Ron Lepper has quite a background in fishing and is certainly a respected name in the business. The skipper is looking for a job in consulting, advising, writing, private fishing captain, etc., in these or any end of the business, "with decent hours." Anyone wishing to reach Ronnie, can call him at (516) 239-9112 or (516) 239-9232.

ZEBCO'S KIDS' CLUB ENROLLMENT MORE THAN 16,000 MEMBERS

More than 16,000 "kids," three-months-old to age 64, have joined the Zebco Kids' Club since its inception seven months ago.

To date, some 60% of the total members are between the ages of three and five years. The largest portion of members is four-years-old, with about 22% of the total 16,000 enrollment.

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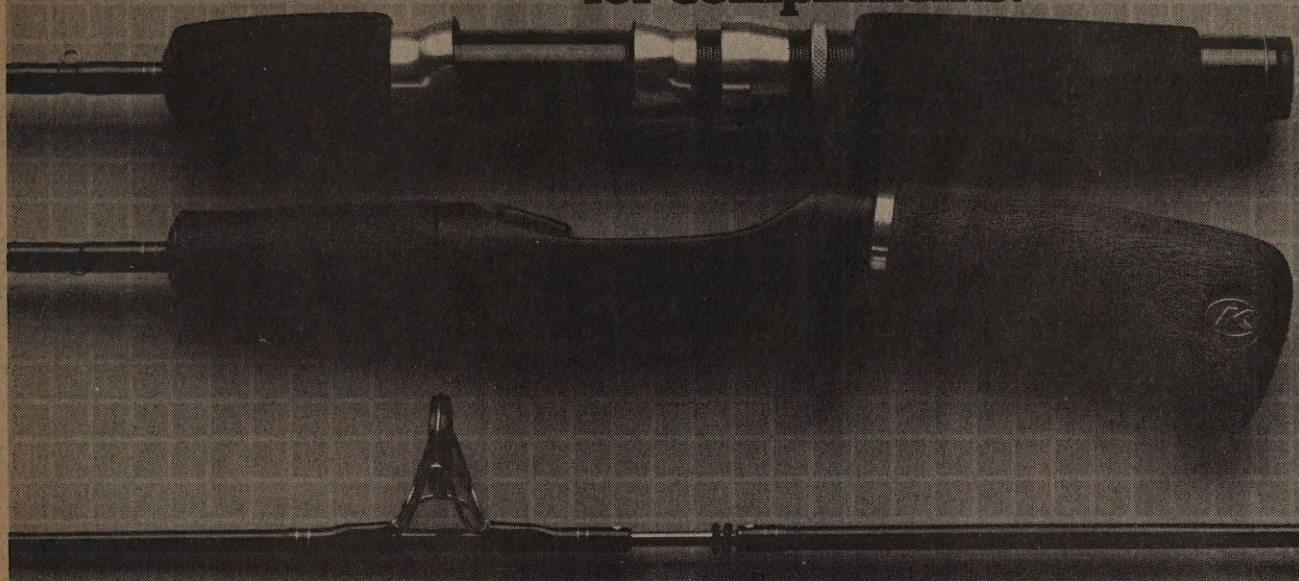
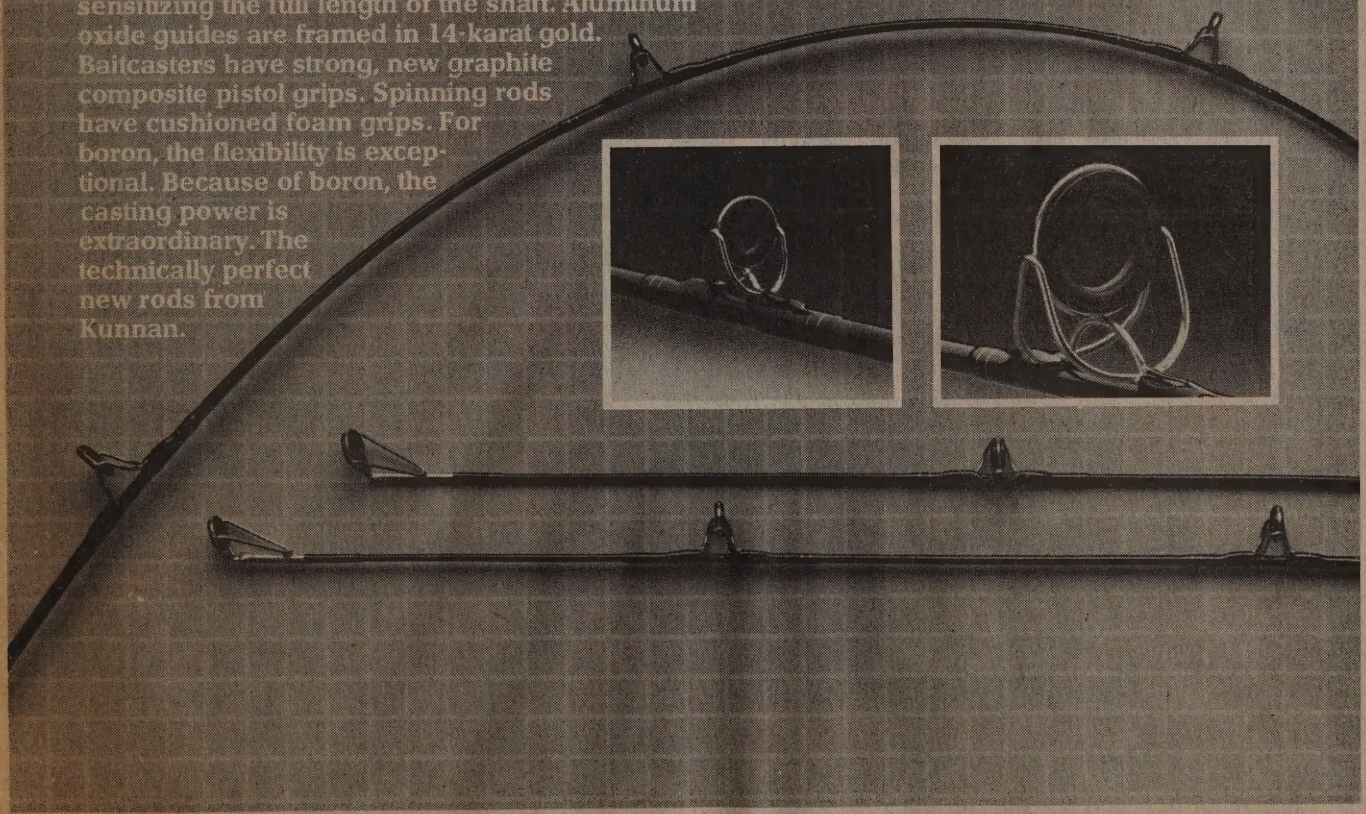
Jerry & Bob Cedar

Boron rods so well made, they don't have to even fish for compliments.



Baitcasting. Spinning. Both with boron fibers sensitizing the full length of the shaft. Aluminum oxide guides are framed in 14-karat gold. Baitcasters have strong, new graphite composite pistol grips. Spinning rods have cushioned foam grips. For boron, the flexibility is exceptional. Because of boron, the casting power is extraordinary. The technically perfect new rods from Kunnan.



For the name of your nearest dealer, contact the Kunnan Tackle Company, 7282 Bolsa Avenue, Westminster, CA 92683. (714) 895-3696.

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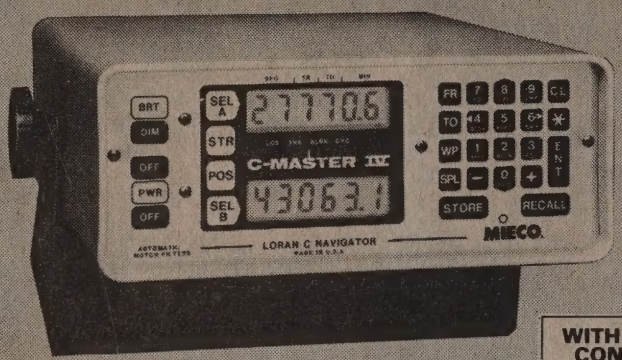

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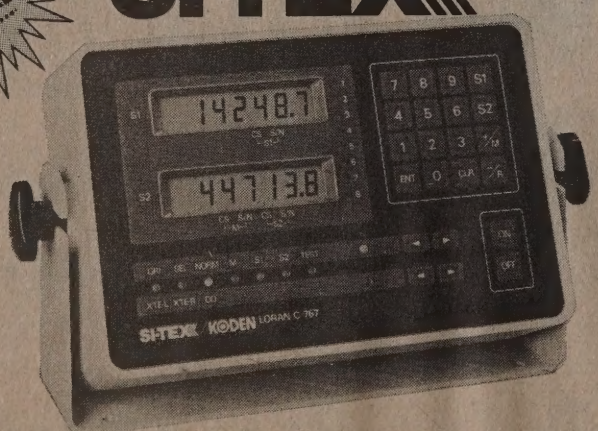

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by Zebco includes an invitation to join the Club. The members receive a Zebco T-shirt iron-on patch, membership card, membership certificate and a newsletter that teaches outdoorsmanship, as well as proper angling techniques.

For additional information about the Zebco Kids' Club, contact Bing McClellan, Zebco Division Brunswick Corporation, P.O. Box 270, Tulsa, Okla. 74101.

TI NAMES KIRK POND ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT

Texas Instruments Inc., announced that Kirk P. Pond, Manager of TI's U.S. calculator operations, has been named an Assistant Vice President.

Mr. Pond joined TI in May, 1968. His career with TI has included assignments in the semi-conductor and consumer products businesses with responsibilities in manufacturing operations, financial planning, and division management in Dallas, Singapore, Taiwan and Lubbock.

Mr. Pond was born in Stuttgart, Arkansas. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1966 and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Wharton Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1968.

ATTENTION SHARK FISHERMEN: A DATE TO REMEMBER!

The Surf Side 3 Tuna Club is pleased to announce their First Annual Open Shark Tournament to be held on July 17th (rain date July 18th). A total of $2,500 in cash prizes will be awarded: 1st—$1,500; 2nd—$750, and 3rd—$250.

All are welcome. The fee is $100 per boat. Any captains who sign up before May 1st are eligible, at no extra charge, for a chance at an 80 International that will be raffled off at the Captains' meeting on July 16th.

For information, call Richie Ferri, 957-5771 or Fred Walters, 842-8107.

JACKSON HEIGHTS ANGLERS ELECT NEW SLATE FOR '82

After a most successful fishing year, the members of the Jackson Heights Anglers, re-elected the following officers for 1982:

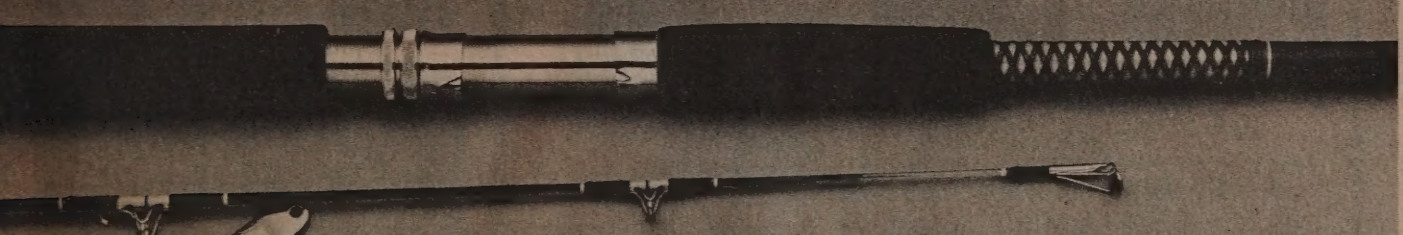
President: A. Schnoor
Vice-Pres.: W. Duchemin
Secretary: G. Rambousek
Financial Sec'y: J. McCafferty

They will be installed at the Annual Dinner-Dance Award night Feb. 20th at the Cadillac Terrace in Woodside. The chief recipients of awards are A. Schnoor, F. Hartman and G. Rambousek.

ASKS CLUBS TO JOIN LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Any club or group interested in participating in a communications network that will help keep everyone updated and aware of meetings, bills before the state and Federal Government, etc., that affect an area we are all vitally interested in—FISHING—

Introducing the toughest rod on 75 percent of the earth's surface.



The Ugly Stik® rod.

Fenwick hasn't got it. Diawa can't duplicate it. Garcia doesn't make it.

There's only one place you can get the toughest, lightest, most durable big-water rod ever made. From Shakespeare.

That's because only Shakespeare has the patented Double-Bilt™ Process—a unique blank-building system that covers an inner spiral of graphite with a tough outer layer of fiberglass.

The result: A big-water rod so strong, it can outfight most any fish that swims. Yet so light, you can fish all day without tiring.

In fact, we're so confident the Ugly Stik rod can take any punishment a fish can dish out, we'll replace it free within five years of purchase if it ever breaks under normal fishing conditions.

But the best thing about the Ugly Stik rod from Shakespeare is that there are over 20 different big-water Ugly Stik rods to choose from.

From spinning and casting rods to fly rods to downrigger and boat rods.

Remember that the next time you wade into a fight with a big-water monster.

Because when you challenge the toughest fish on 75 percent of the earth's surface, you want a rod that's 100 percent dependable.

Don't take chances with your line, either. Always spool on plenty of crystal-clear Sigma™ Big Water Mono, the best all-around big-water monofilament ever invented.

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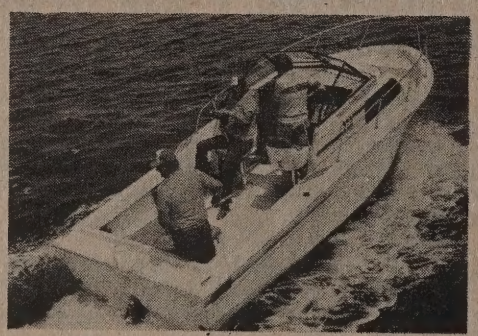

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please send a postcard listing club name, type of club; i.e., surf, boat, deep sea, etc., along with the number of members, name, address and phone number of a responsible member of your club we can contact.

Mail to: Tom FitzSimmons c/o High Hill Striper Club, 12 E. Jamaica Avenue, Valley Stream, NY 11580.

We must organize and be ready and willing to write letters, attend meetings, etc., if our voice is to be heard and our fishing protected.

BASIC BOATING COURSE IN SEAFORD

A 12-lesson course 'Basic Boating' will be given at the Seaford Jr. H.S., Washington Ave., Seaford, by the Jones Beach Power Squadron on Monday evenings, 8PM-10PM, commencing February 22, 1982.

This free course is open to all persons over the age of 16; however, anyone under 18-years-of-age must be accompanied by an adult. The only charge is $5 for materials.

Course includes: power boat handling, Rules of the Road, weather, charts and navigation, legal requirements and other subjects intended to make "SAFE BOATING NO ACCIDENT."

FLOTILLA 19-04 PRESENTS BOATING COURSE

Boating should be safe and pleasurable. Learn the "Rules of the Road." Know what to do in an emergency. Flotilla 19-04 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary presents a "Boating Skills and Seamanship Course" at the Stony Brook Yacht Club in Stony Brook. Registration is Monday evening, February 8th at 8PM. Classes are every Monday evening thereafter for 12 weeks. The course is free, but there is a small charge for materials.

For further information, call Frank at 473-4418 or Jim at 751-2991.

CHUM LINES

AHERN RESPONDS TO CHUM LINES

I was particularly interested in your reply to Robbie Knowles on how to rig killies for fluke (Tackle Doctor, Issue #3).

May I put my two cents in for what it's worth?

It is important to remember that in order to catch fluke, the bait must be presented in a life-like manner. There are many "secrets" to catching fluke, but this, I believe, is the most important of all.

No self-respecting fluke will take kindly to a killie which is hooked through the back, causing it to spin like a whirling dervish as it is drifted along the bottom. The same applies to those killies which are hooked through

the tail, causing the killy to "swim" backward. These may work when still-fishing, but still-fishing produces few fluke. Of the three killies shown in the photo, the one in the middle stands the best chance. *Matt Ahern, Hampton Bays, N.Y.*

BENT HOOKS AND SAND EELS

First, I would like to say that I am an avid reader of the LIF as well as a subscriber and I have been fishing for quite a few years. Recently I started making my own rigs and trolling tubes. My first question may sound a little silly, but I would like to know why are the bent hooks used in the tubes rather than straight-shanked type? Is it because it gives the lure an offset effect or to improve the action of the tube? Or maybe a different reason that I cannot figure out.

My section question is this: while cleaning some flounder I caught on the North Shore in fall, I noticed the fish's stomach was full of either small sand eels or some other type of bait fish. They were very small bait fish about 2" long and the stomachs in about four fish was completely full. I always thought that flounder fed mainly on worms, clams, mussels, etc. Is this unusual or common to find these bait fish inside flounder or do they really feed on moving bait fish? Thank you, *Thomas Castagna, Ronkonkoma, NY.*

First question: A long shank hook whose shaft has been bent is usually used in tube lures so that a curve will be given to the tube. Thus, when the tube is pulled through the water it will wiggle as the curve causes the water to move around it unevenly. A straight hook will mean a straight tube and that means little, if any, action. Now, I'll offer you this. Once we were using an umbrella rig and all the tubes took fish except one. When we took a closer look we noticed that the hook inside had not been bent. We bent the hook and that tube immediately took fish. On another occasion, we couldn't take a fish in spite of the action all around us. The other fishermen knew something that we didn't. That is, they were using tubes without curves so that the action of the tubes was minimal. It was the ticket of success—but please don't ask me why?!

Your second question: Basically, flounders are bottom feeders and they do not chase swimming baits around. However, in recent years sand eels have been so abundant that this small skinny fish becomes easy pickins for the flounders. All they have to do is suck them out of the sediment. In life, creatures need to be opportunistic to survive. Dr. W.A. Muller.

GETTING INFORMATION

First of all, I would like to say that I enjoy your column *Fish Talk* very much.

I live in Shirley and have a small 14' boat with a small motor. Because of the small outboard, I cannot travel far distances when going fishing. I fish a

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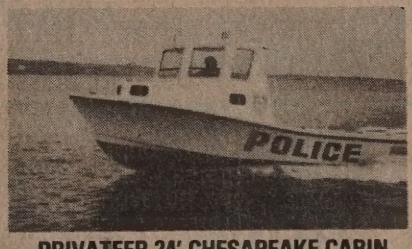

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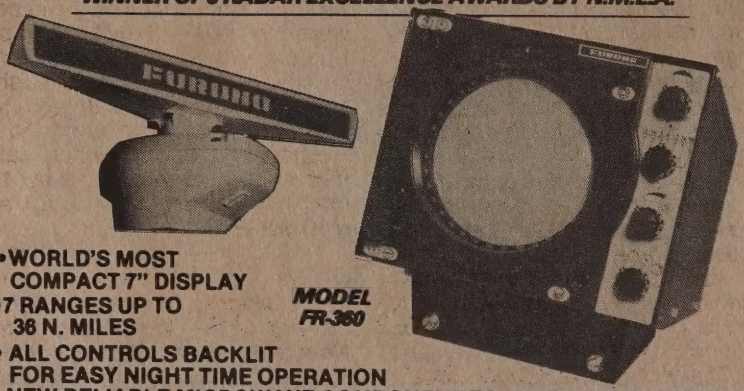

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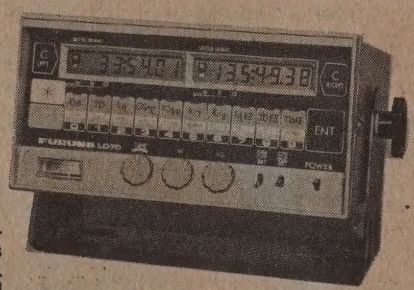

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lot and meet a lot of other fishermen who fish around the same area as I. The area I am referring to is around the Smith Point Bridge and to and from Buoys 12-23. What I would like to know is how I can find out where and what is biting in that area. The fishing reports in The Fisherman don't say much and sometimes there isn't any fishing report at all for the area. I know there are only two fishing stations in this area, but sometimes they don't even send in a report. We also have two bait shops in the area that do not send in any report. I would appreciate it if you could do something about this and see if it could be corrected. Thank you very much. *Robt. J. Finnerty, Shirley Fisherman.*

First off, let us say we take exception to your contention that the fishing reports don't say much. In preparing to answer this letter, I took a look at the reports for the area you indicate interest in and what I found is information about where the fish were biting (buoy numbers, local names for—in this case—flounder), what tides, what baits were most successful, and what weather conditions were either helping produce better catches or turning the fish off their feed. Second, you mention local bait and tackle dealers. You also say that two of them do not report to LIF. Let me say that most of our fishing reports come from bait and tackle dealers as well as boat liveries, party boats, and charter boats. The remainder comes from private fishermen. However, if there are two local bait and tackle dealers close by—go to them and ask what's running and how to catch them whenever you plan a trip. Not only do we give that advice to other readers who write in, but we follow it ourselves. Whenever we plan a trip to less than totally familiar waters, the first thing we do is get on the phone. It pays off in better fishing. Dr. W.A.Muller.

TIDE DEFINITIONS

My name is Robert Ownbey, and I am 16-years-old. I am a voracious reader and, needless to say, I read the LIF from cover to cover. Through reading I have learned a good deal about fishing in almost every aspect of the sport. But there is one thing that still confuses me. As you have mentioned many times before, the tides have a significant bearing on whether you catch fish or not. There is ebb tide, slack tide, high slack, low slack, flood tide and so on, and so forth. This really mixes me up. I have a very general idea about what these terms mean, but it is very vague. I would greatly appreciate it if you could clarify these terms and possibly tell me when these tides occur in relation to high and/or low tide. I hope you don't think this is a silly question, because I need all the help I can get just to get a nibble. Sincerely, *Robert Ownbey, Oceanside, NY*

Be delighted. Ebb tide is the outgoing tide. Slack tide is the short period between tide changes. Thus, a slack

occurs between outgoing and incoming as well as between incoming and outgoing. Thus, the terms low slack and high slack. Flood tide is the incoming tide, so named because it floods the bay with water. Okay? Dr. W.A. Muller.

NIGHT RAMPS

Several years ago, I obtained a night fishing permit for the various State Parks. At that time, I noticed that Heckscher was *not* on the list of parks for which the permit was valid.

However, in the *Pass It On* column of Dec. 3, 1981 issue, the article on 1982 permits includes Heckscher. A phone call to L.I.S.P.C. confirmed that the new permits do indeed include Heckscher, but they permit only night beach fishing. They do not allow the holder to use the boat launching ramp during the hours of darkness.

As a trailer fisherman, and a resident of Smithtown, my only access to Great South Bay is the ramp at Heckscher. There are many occasions when I would like to be at the inlet at the crack of dawn or maybe an hour before, and over the years the LIF has published several articles on night fishing in G.S.B.; but it seems that this is not available to me or anyone who is not a resident of one of the South Shore towns.

Signs in Heckscher indicate that the Park closes at darkness, but exceptions are made for campers, and now beach fishermen. Why can't an exception also be made for boat trailers? To my knowledge this ramp is the only one on Long Island with such a restriction. The town ramps on the North Shore which I use, and the State ramp at Jamesport have no such restrictions.

Perhaps the LIF could make inquiry to the decision makers at L.I.S.P.C. as to why they have such a restrictive regulation, and also the possibility of getting this changed. *J. C. Richy, Ft. Salonga, NY.*

Finding a place to launch a boat at night is a real problem and one that is shared by many people. In addition to the reluctance of the State for security, safety, and financial reasons, town ramps and even privately owned ramps usually are off limits after dark. Some town ramps turn the other way, but may not offer support lighting or any personnel to help out if there's a problem. Some towns lock gates and ticket cars in the lot after dark. Therefore, it is a good idea to confirm night use of any ramp before using. You are right about the Jamesport ramp, but the situation in Heckscher and Jamesport are simply not the same: what can successfully be done in New York City may be a flop in Montauk—and that's life. We remember a time not too many years ago when ramps owned by tackle stores and boat liveries were open for night use. Vandalism and assaults put an end to that. Sorry we can't offer hope for the future. Dr. W.A. Muller.

STILL ALIVE?

I recently went fishing in Westchester's Cross River Reservoir with a friend. I caught a couple of smallmouth bass, and my friend caught a yellow perch. After being on a stringer for a few hours in the water, they were then transported (still alive) to the car in a bucket of ice. After a two-and-a-half hour ride rhome, they were then put into my kitchen sink for filleting. One of the bass and the perch were still breathing slightly.

My question is: Can you tell me why this has happened to those freshwater fish, but when saltwater fish are treated the same way, they do not last nearly as long as the freshwater fish?

Thank you for your time. *R. Greenbaum, New York, NY.*

The answer is in that ice! When you put fish on ice, the ice begins to melt. Now, fresh water from the melted ice is okay for perch, but your saltwater catch isn't crazy about it. In addition, many saltwater game fish have a higher oxygen requirement so they die quickly when out of water. The higher the oxygen need, the faster the fish die out of water. Dr. W.A.M.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE WATER??

I would like to know where all the water goes during a low tide, and does the same water that goes out,

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come back in at high tide. Thank you. *Wayne McPartland, Port Washington, NY.*

The water empties out of a restricted basin on the ebb tide. If the basin is a back-bay area, the water may empty into a nearby bay or sound. If the basin is a bay or sound, the water may empty into a bight or the coastal ocean. It is possible that some of the same water may come back into the same basin on the flood tide. This possibility causes marine scientists to be concerned about 'flushing time'— or the time it takes something in the basin to be completely flushed out by the tides. The more restricted the basin, the further it is away from the main water flow, and the less fresh water input there is to that basin, the slower will be the flushing time. When considering oil spills and pollution in general, an extremely slow flushing time can equate to great ecological damage. Dr. W.A.M.

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The cosmetics are an extension of the name—Classic. The traditional graphite color blank is combined with silver wraps and red trim. Available models include all popular spinning, casting, and fly rods.

For additional information, write: Berkley and Co., Inc., Trilene Drive, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

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For more information, write: Flambeau Product Corp., 15981 Valplast Rd., Middlefield, OH 44062.

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For more information, write: Shimano American Corp., 205 Jefferson Rd., Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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BUILDING A 13' SURF STICK:

REACHING OUT

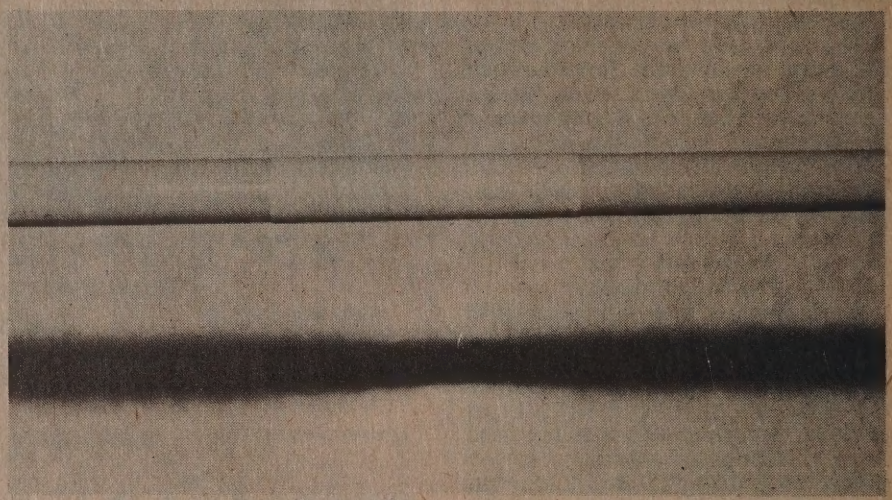
Part Two — *by William A. Muller*

Fewer and fewer bass, blues, and weaks in the surf has caused more and more surf fishermen to begin thinking about bait fishing, especially during the so-called lean times of the season. We believe conventional tackle is best suited to bait fishing and last week we proposed two design approaches for building the 13' Lamiglass blank SB 164 M.

The first design calls for the blank to be used in full length. This gives you a rod that is tall, whippy, may be a bit too mushy for throwing large baits, but which can also double as a conventional plug casting rod very easily. The second design results in a rod that is a foot shorter, is much stiffer, can throw large baits easily, may not be the best rod for plugging, but can double as a long jetty stick.

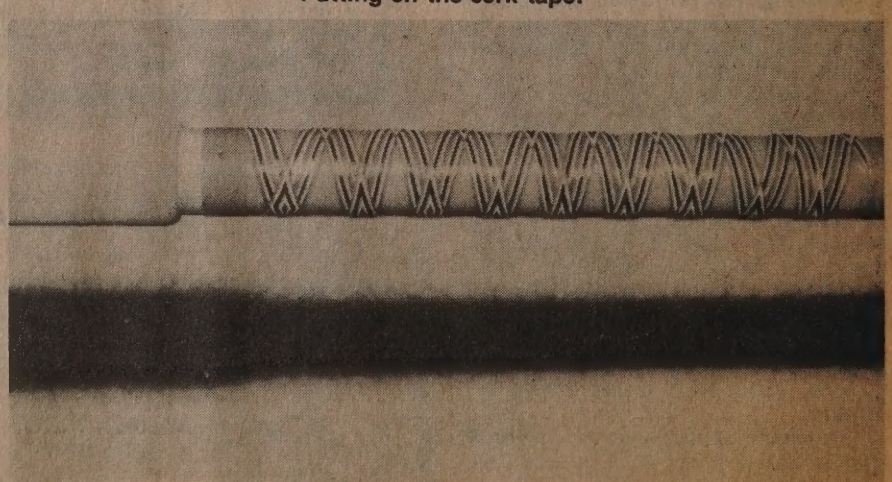
We also recognized that there are several ways to approach the parts of the rod. One can use a reel seat or avoid it; there are carboloy guides and ceramic ones, and then neoprene, cork, or hypalon for the grips. We have evolved a preference for the most simple, but durable rods and thus, the design we suggest calls for no reel seat, cork tape from foregrip to butt cap, and yet the state of the art in guides—ceramic. Last week we discussed all this, plus guide spacing, and this week we'll finish the rod.

Cork Tape. We started with about ten feet of cork tape. However, if you use a larger span between foregrip and butt cap you'll need extra. Now, one can put down two layers of cork tape or just one and, in this case, I decide on a single layer because the butt section of the blank has a wide cross-sectional diameter. Two layers of tape would have made the diameter too much to be comfortable with. Cork tape is easy to apply and the rod builder need only be careful that the edges of each wrap are flush with the preceding one so that there are no gaps where water can leak in. Start the cork tape wrap by slicing one end with a razor blade so that the diagonal cut will be parallel to the base of the foregrip. Now slowly continue to wrap your way down the blank's butt section. Secure the ends of the cork tape wrap with plastic electrical tape. Place one end of the tape carefully so that it is flush with the base of the foregrip and pull the tape so that it stretches. Make two or three revolutions, cut the tape with a razor blade, and press the end of the tape down securely. Repeat this process at the



The underwrap. Notice it is tight and smooth, and secure.

Putting on the cork tape.



One type of diamond wrap. Consult Pfeiffer Tackle Crafters book for details on other designs or ask your tackle dealer.

butt end.

The Butt Cap. There are several ways to finish off the butt. Some folks like to stop the cork tape a little short of the end of the rod and then place a rod butt cap on the end. The cork tape end and the butt cap end will be flush, giving a nice even and professional look to the butt section. Another approach is to use a crutch tip. The crutch tip can be purchased at most drug stores and then glued onto the butt end with epoxy. To determine the correct size, measure the cross-sectional diameter of the butt end of the rod. This is the size of the butt cap you'll want to use. A crutch tip that is too big may work its way off the butt even if glued and one that is too small will need to be stretched so much that it will eventually crack and break.

The Windings. Your guide spacings have already been determined. Now, with a pencil measure the positions of the guide center markers on the blank. Now measure an amount on either side of the center mark that will allow some excess beyond the ends of the feet of the guide. Now wind the underwinding layer of thread. We recommend you use NCP thread since this will preclude the need for a layer of liquid color preservative later. Begin the winding by holding the end of the thread towards the guide and wrapping over this end for a dozen turns. This will hold the end down. Now wrap towards the other mark on the blank. Wind tightly, but not so tight that the thread wants to curl away from itself. About a dozen turns before the other end of the section, place a six inch length of 10 lb. test monofilament, which has been bent in half, against the blank and wind over it so that the loop in the line extends beyond the place where the windings will end. When you get to the pencil mark, cut the thread with about 2'' of excess while holding down the windings with your finger. Now guide the free thread end through the loop of mono. Pull the loop so that the thread end is held tight against the windings. Cut off all but a quarter of an inch of the thread. Place the nail of your finger on the thread winding immediately next to the mono loop. Now pull the loop through the windings while keeping your nail down on the last winding. The thread end will be pulled under the windings, thus holding it securely. This is how it is done without glue. Complete all the underwinding sections. When complete, give each a coat of flex-coat epoxy finish or exterior varnish.

Foregrip Wrap. If you wish to embellish your rod you can easily do so with any of a great variety of foregrip wraps. There are chevrons, diamond wraps, and other interesting and eye-pleasing decorations. These are just that: decorations and serve no functional purpose. It is not within the scope of this article to cover these techniques, but you can get this information in several ways. One, I wrote an article on diamond wraps in January, 1977. If you have these issues, you can consult them. Second, Pffeifer's Tackle Crafters is a great book to consult, as is Gudebrod's booklet on rod winding. You can also consult with your bait and tackle dealer for details. Finally, there have been numerous rod building articles over the years that cover this. The rods may be intended for specific purposes as this one is, but wrapping techniques are the same.

Wrapping Philosophy. Some folks like to be conservative with wrapping, while others prefer to be flamboyant. I prefer the colorful approach. Therefore, be guided in your choice of thread color combinations by your basic philosophy. If you wish to be daring, try a pumpkin orange underwrap with blue overwrap, red with black, yellow with purple. Now, if you're cautious try muted orange with chocolate, Navy blue and black, etc. There is also some discussion about how much of the underwrapping should show after the guide feet have been secured in place. Many of the best rod builders like very little of this to show on the ends and they look for underwrap to show under the guide rings. I prefer a little more color and so I extend my underwrappings a little further than some builders so that more of it shows.

Wrapping the Guide Feet. Depending upon what guides you will use, some of them will need to have their feet filed down before wrapping. This is easily done with a sharp metal file.

(Continued on page 60.)

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AN EASY ANCHOR LIFT

by Pete Barrett

"...haul the anchor line in with no weight and no struggle."

Lifting the anchor after a day's chumming can be a back-breaking job. Even on small skiffs of less than 25', the anchor can still feel like it "weighs a ton" when you have to lift it by hand. On larger sport fishing vessels, it gets even tougher.

A motorized winch is one way to ease the chore, but many of us don't want to spend the dollars on a winch, or install it on valuable deck or locker space.

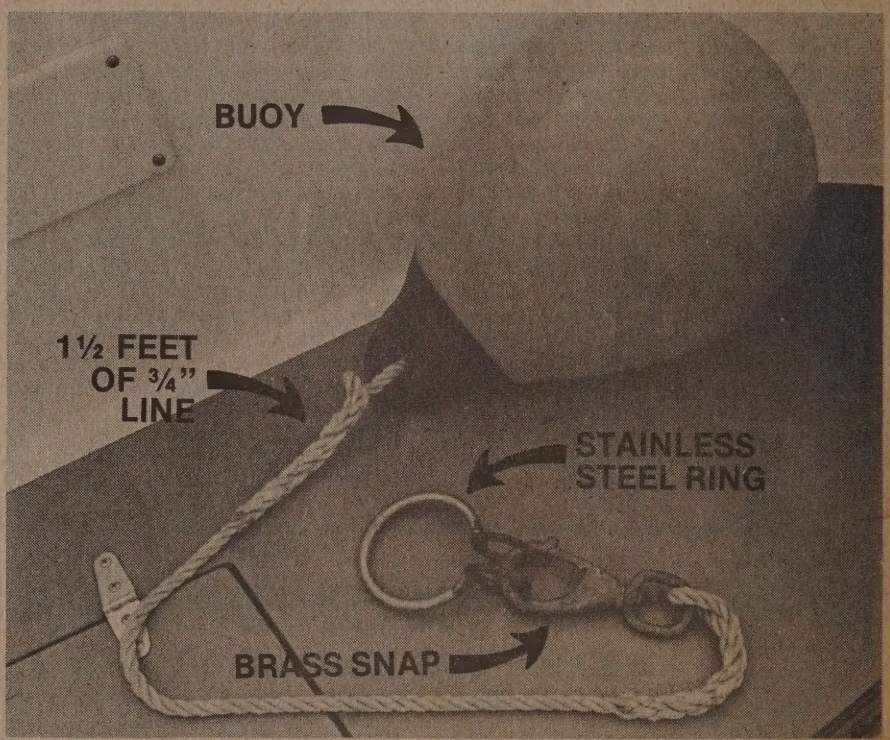
There is an easier way. A method that is so simple and so effortless that you will never have to flex your back muscles ever again. All you need is a stainless steel ring, a short length of 3/4" line, a brass snap, and a buoy of commercial construction. The hardest part to find is the stainless steel ring. Mine was made by Mike Ott's professional crew at Seabrite Stainless in Neptune, N.J. and the cost was very reasonable. The buoy, brass clip and line is, of course, readily available at any marine supply store.

Let's say you've been anchored over a ridge for several hours chumming blues and now it's time to head back to the dock. First, you have to haul in 300' of anchor line! Remove the ring from the brass clip. Slip the ring over the anchor line and then re-clip the brass snap to the ring. Toss the buoy over the side, making sure the buoy and anchor line are free and clear of railings, hardware or anything loose on the deck.

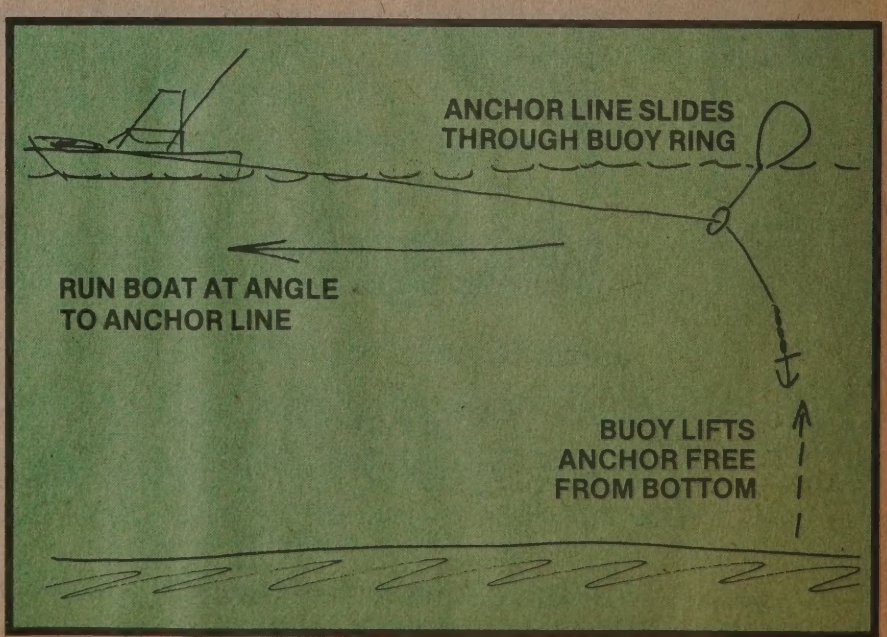
Start your engine and run UP the anchor line at a slight angle to it so you don't run right over the line. As the boat moves up the line, the anchor line will slide freely through the ring until the anchor itself finally hits the ring.

As soon as you see the buoy and anchor splashing off your stern, reverse your direction to head bow first for the buoy. A buddy or mate can now haul in the anchor line and coil it with no weight on the end of the line and no struggle—the anchor is floating nearly weightless suspended by the buoy.

As you get to the end of the anchor line, swing the buoy and anchor aboard. Remove the brass snap, then the ring from the line. Attach the snap to the ring so it won't get separated from the buoy and then store the

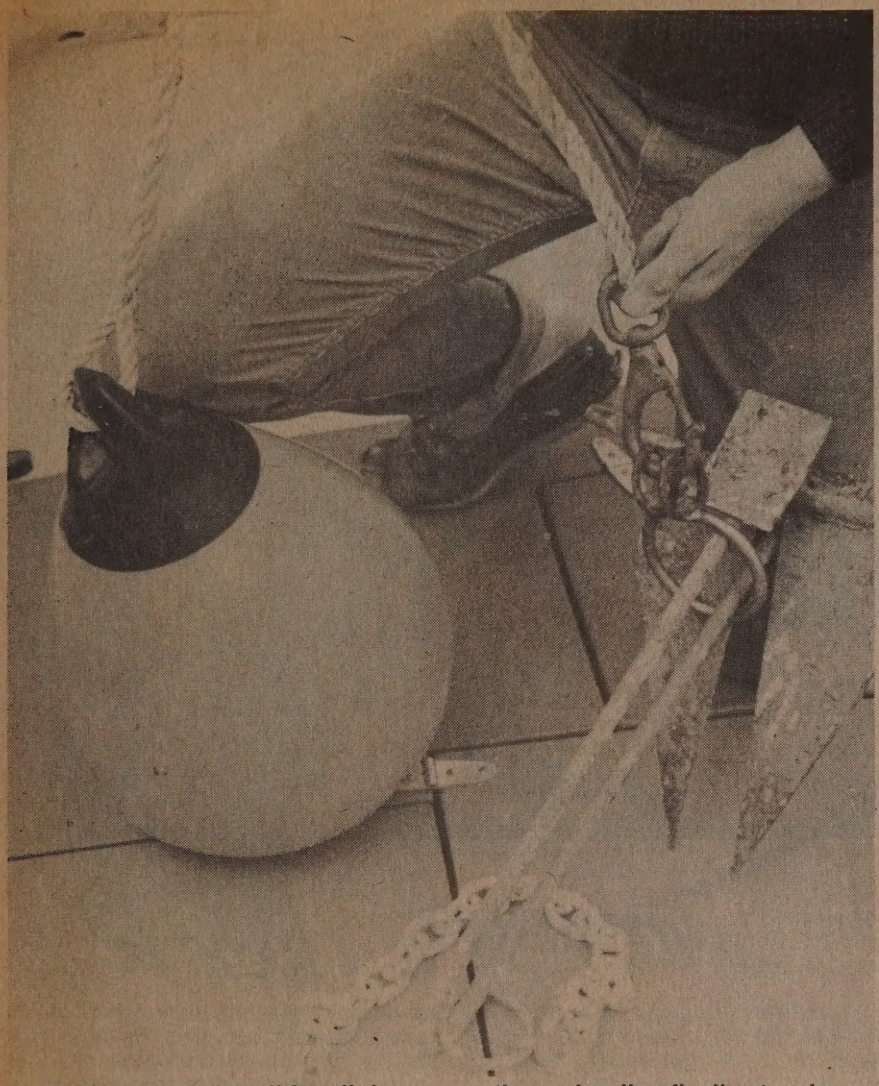


Buoy floats anchor off bottom with no labor by mate. All you need is a buoy, a short length of 3/4" line, a brass snap and the stainless steel ring.

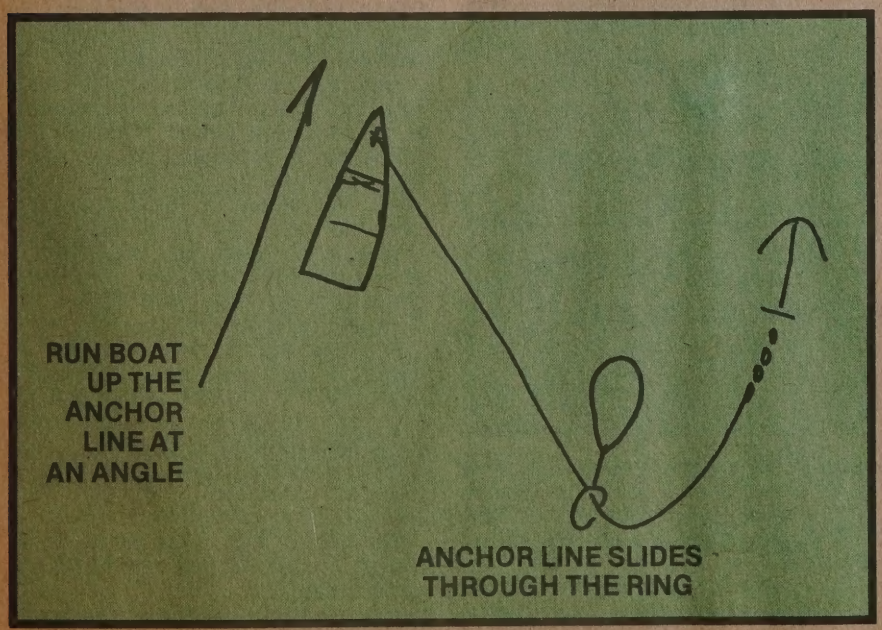


anchor line.

It's easy!! It also works. I've been using this easy anchoring system for quite some time now with no problems. I first saw the method used in the Florida Keys where most charter boats and many private boats are quickly identified as chummers by the red buoys secured to the bow deck ready for a fast anchor lift.



Stainless steel ring slides all the way up the anchor line finally stopping right at the anchor. Anchor floats suspended off the buoy while mate or buddy retrieves the anchor line with little effort.



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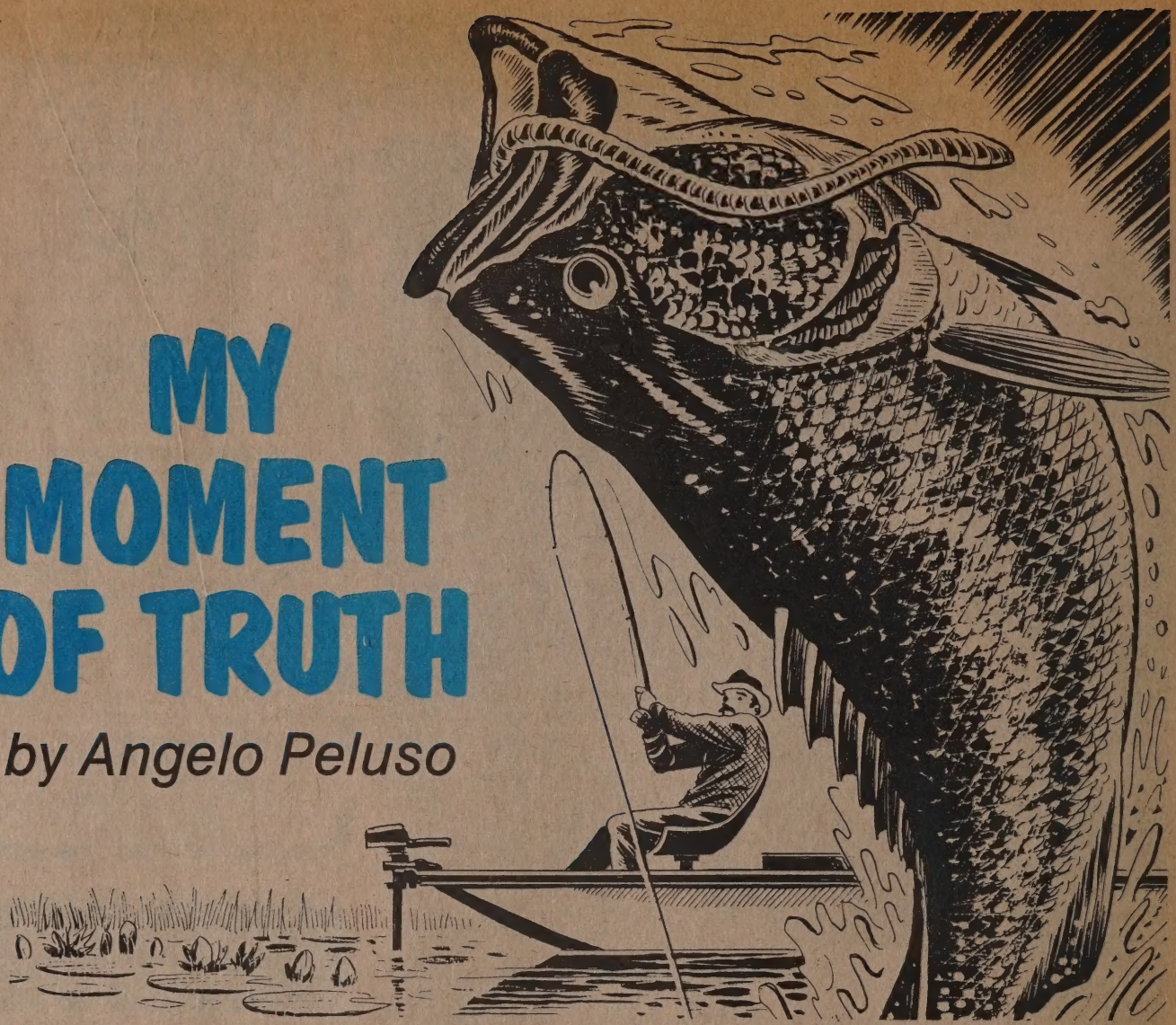
MY MOMENT OF TRUTH

by Angelo Peluso



As the fortune cookie opened, I eased out the little green slip of paper. Upon it the mystic message appeared, "You have shown the courage to make an honorable decision." My God, what a coincidence! Was the Master Creator watching me today? Did He see what had occurred, and did He know my inner feelings? He must have, for this message was like a soothing elixir; it provided very timely reassurance.

"Did you enjoy your meal?" my wife asked.

"You know, He could very well have been testing me. My beliefs, standards and sporting ethics were all on the line. The whole ball of wax."

"Was the food okay?" my wife reiterated, her voice a bit louder.

I mumbled that it was really too good to believe. So much so that there probably had been some sort of divine intervention.

"You're obviously not referring to the food. Your mind is pre-occupied with that fish and it's getting the best of you. You did what you felt was necessary and that's all there is to it."

"I guess you're right. Let's pay this bill and go home."

Throughout the night my mind wandered. Sleep did not come to me. It was that darn fish. I had it in my hands, my most meaningful angling goal achieved. How could I let a fish torment me this way. Easy! In twenty years of freshwater fishing I'd never experienced such a series of events. And ironically, it happened virtually in my own backyard. It just didn't seem fair.

"My mind continued to race along and I began to think about wild bass and what they have meant to my life."

The entire thing began with a decision to join an angling companion on a local pickerel fishing trip. After two solid months of trout fishing I was ready for this warm-water change-over. It was decided that we would fish a small 20-acre pond that held a very healthy population of chain pickerel. Since we had tangled with a few of its lunker fish in the past, we calculated this to be the prime time to coax an early season trophy.

Bob met me at 6AM that Saturday morning. We grabbed some breakfast at a diner and talked fishing. Our conversation continued as we made the forty-five minute drive to the pond. We spoke of the fish caught over the years and the bigger ones that were expected. Fish talk like this seems magical, for it knows not the boundaries of time, and before we realized it the pond appeared.

It took about ten minutes to assemble our gear and launch the boat. Once on the lake, Bob made the first cast, to which a fish responded by seizing the yellow spinner.

"Feels more like a bass than a pickerel," was Bob's comment. "It's a small fish."

He lipped that bass as it came alongside the boat and bid it adieu as he released it.

"Come back in season when you

add a couple of pounds."

During the first few hours of fishing we caught and released a number of good pickerel and an occasional straggler bass. Eighteen pickerel had been landed and freed before we experienced the first subtle signal of things to come.

I was tossing a 5" jointed minnow plug, the floating/sinking variety, when a bolt of piscatorial lightning struck as I gave the motionless plug some life. In the shallow water I quickly noticed the dark lateral line on the full-bodied fish and knew instantly that it was a fine northern largemouth. Following the brief but active tussle, Bob slipped the net under a healthy 6 lb. bass. I freed the fish from the plug and eased it back into the water.

"That was a nice fish," Bob commented approvingly.

"It certainly was. Hope she has a good spawn."

I maneuvered the jon boat out of the small cove and along the adjacent shore line, flipping the plug under an overhang and tight against the bank. One twitch of the plug was all that was needed to motivate the bass to strike. My reflexes struck back and I was fast to another fighting largemouth. When the fish finally tired, Bob once again manipulated the net as I guided it in. The bass was almost the identical twin of the first. A few admiring remarks were passed before sending this battler on its way to freedom.

A short period of time had elapsed before Bob's opportunity to catch and release a beautiful 6¼ lb. bass. Both of us were amazed at the consistency with which we managed to take large bass. What was even more astonishing was the fact that we were doing so from this small puddle of a pond. It seemed as though Spring was bringing out the best in this place, and we both agreed to try again for these fish once the season officially opened.

Down the shore line we continued, working our plugs through every piece of visible structure. I could envision that big ole' pickerel lying in wait for some hapless prey. It was just about Noon when we entered the small cove for the second time. The vision of what was about to occur is so vividly etched in my mind. As the plug landed on the right side of the overhang, about six feet from the shore, the huge fish moved toward it aggressively. Its first swipe knocked the imitation baitfish a few feet forward of its original position. Manipulating the plug to simulate what would have been a very stunned and injured prey, I tried to stimulate another response. The fish turned and pounced the plug; she was well hooked and very strong. Her fight was in low gear, strength as opposed to speed. I began to suspect that this wasn't just a big pickerel and had my "fears" confirmed when I saw the lateral line. This was a big bass.

I yelled for Bob to get the net as the fish ran parallel to the boat. Closer she came.

"Almost there. Come on, come on."

In one quick and efficient motion the fish lined the bottom of the net. Bob looked up at me and didn't say a word. He has known me long enough to appreciate that this was the one angling threshold I longed to hurdle. She was every bit an 8 lb. bass and my small scale attested to that. A very large fish by all northern standards—the icing on the cake.

The time that I held the fish in my grasp felt eternal, when in reality it was but a few moments. On a number of occasions I eased it back into the water only to lift it out to get another eyeful.

"How about a picture?" I thought. Then I remembered, "No camera!"

My mind accelerated its thought process, confused by a conflict of conscience: the angels of good and evil peered over each shoulder.

"I'd better put her back."

"Maybe I should keep her."

"You can't," the voice of conscience whispered. "It's a week until the season opens. You know it's wrong.

"But 8 lbs. of northern largemouth. Biggest you've ever caught. Sure would look great in the den, that special place you keep clear."

"That's true. But how about all the fish that you have released throughout the years. You've done your share. This is only one fish; take it."

"It may be only one bass, but she can help to keep this small pond alive, giving you even greater enjoyment. You wouldn't feel right keeping it."

My mind continued to race along and I began to think about wild bass and what they have meant to my life.

They helped to mold my personality and character and instill in me an undying love for all of the outdoors.

They taught me the meaning of strength. Not just the brute physical kinds, but the kind of inner fortitude needed to overcome the hardships of life.

They taught me about courage and about what it means to be free. More importantly, how vigorously one should pursue freedom.

They taught me about the beautiful places, the lakes, ponds and rivers where solitude is a fine companion.

They taught me about the meaning of patience and humility and the fact that success doesn't come easy.

I eased that bass back into the water and watched her lie motionless alongside the boat. With a powerful sweep of her tail she was gone. Gone as a possession, but certainly not as a memory.

"You did what you had to do," were Bob's words that broke the silence. "After all, you did catch the fish. That's what is really important."

I think about that bass often. She left her indelible mark; a valuable lesson I will never forget.

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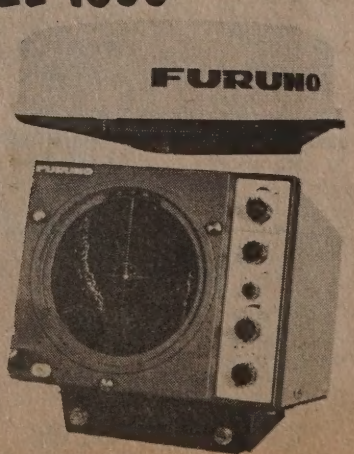

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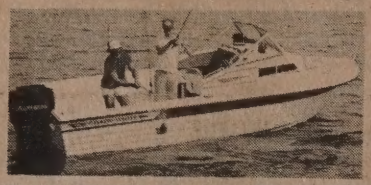

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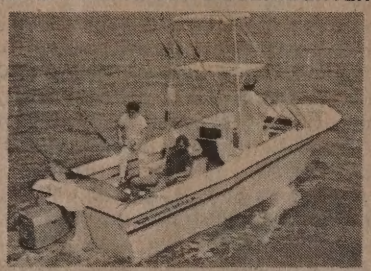

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CAPTAIN'S TABLE:

FISHERMAN'S WHITING

by Eileen Regina

Whiting is perhaps my favorite fish. Its delicate, flaky white meat can be cooked in many ways; it is fairly abundant in our area throughout the winter months, from late Fall till late Spring; it is easily caught and fills a definite need as a sport fish as well as a commercial fish. Long past the time that most of us have called it quits for the season, and way before we normally inaugurate our new season, the whiting fisherman is busy doing his thing: catching fish and having fun. In addition, whiting is among the most reasonably priced fish on the market, always an excellent buy for your money.

If you have never tried whting (and I suspect that many of us have not done so), you do not know what you are missing. Most European peoples are aware of this delicious fish, and it is in great demand on the Continent. Americans, however, seem reluctant to try new food tastes, and unless we are introduced to specific foods through the ethnic background of our upbringing, we miss out on a lot of delicious eating. The recipe is one I heartily recommend. It is simple to prepare, and cooks in a very short time. In fact, most fish dishes cook fairly quickly. Fish should only be cooked long enough to firm up the protein and bring out the flavor. To estimate cooking time, measure fish at its thickest part. Allow twenty minutes of cooking time for each inch of thickness when using a conventional oven. Frying is usually faster, but here we can go by sight, removing the fish as soon as it gets golden brown in color.

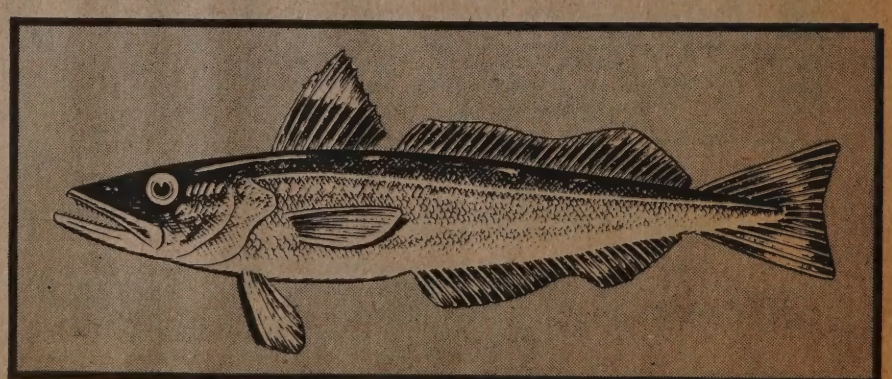
To tell if any fish is thoroughly cooked, stick a fork into the thickest part and lift gently. The flesh should come away in thick layers or flakes and should be milky-white colored throughout. Or insert a metal skewer into the fish for about thirty seconds. Remove skewer and test it on your wrist. If the skewer is barely warm, cook fish for several more minutes; if the skewer is hot, your fish is done.

FISHERMAN'S WHITING

Ingredients (serves 4):
4 large whiting fillets
4 tbsps. butter
1½ tbsps. minced shallots
1½ tbsps. minced parsley
1 tbsp. capers, drained and chopped
1½ tsp. Dijon mustard
1/4 cup dry vermouth
2 tsp. lemon juice
salt & pepper to taste

Season fillets with salt and pepper. Place them in a well-buttered baking dish, then sprinkle with minced shallots, minced parsley, and chopped capers. Blend mustard and vermouth together, then sprinkle over fish. Dot the fillets with pats of butter, cover and simmer very gently for about 15 minutes. Remove from fire. Spoon pan juices into a small saucepan and reduce quickly to about 1/2 cup. Add to it one tablespoon of butter and the lemon juice, blend and then coat the fillets with this mixture. Place baking dish under direct flame in a very hot broiler for one minute, till top gets browned. Serve at once, piping hot and still smoking from the broiler.

For perfect complements, I'd serve parsleyed new potatotes and green peas. Both go very well with this dish, as does our traditional tossed green salad and dry white wine.



SINKER MAKING: THEN AND NOW

by Matt Ahern

A sinker bouncing expert with 55 years of experience tells how to go about making your own sinkers.

Whether we fishermen consider it an enjoyable pastime or not, the fact remains that sinker making is an excellent way to reduce the cost of fishing. No longer can sinkers be purchased for a penny an ounce; therefore, this labor is no longer looked upon with a jaundiced eye. Truly, necessity is the mother of invention.

Of course, if you are strictly a bay fisherman and devote your time to flounder and fluke exclusively, what follows may not necessarily apply to you. But if you are a party boat fisherman whose interest lies in cod, blacks, sea bass, porgies, and so forth, I think you had better decide now that making your own sinkers is going to help save some hard-earned cash.

I've been making sinkers for 55 years and before we finish this article, I'll tell you exactly how I go about it. But for now, let's take a moment and go back a bit into the past and see just how the old-timers of the day went about sinker making when I was a youngster.

It seemed to me then that every dedicated party boat fisherman owned a sinker mold. These were of heavy cast iron and it was rare to find a mold that made sinkers weighing less than eight ounces. Most cast eight, ten, twelve, fourteen, and sixteen ounce diamond shaped sinkers. I saw few, if any, of our now common bank-sinker molds at that time.

I'm sure you must be wondering why such heavy sinkers were used. Where were those five and six ounce sinker-making molds so prevalent today? I suppose they were around, but I don't recall ever seeing one. Nor, actually, do I recall aluminum molds. These came later.

Anyway—back to why were heavy sinkers used during the old days? Simple. There were no thin, current-resisting monofilament lines then. Most old-timers fished with thick handlines, and those who used rods and reels used line made of Irish linen. Both were strong, but they had one drawback: they absorbed water like a sponge. Hence, the need for those heavy sinkers. If we fished for cod during full moon tides, let's say, the least a guy could expect to get away with was a 14 oz. sinker. Sixteen ouncers were brought along just in case. Those old-time fishermen knew that if they wanted cod, it was important that the bait lie as quietly as possible.

Today, a penny means nothing, but those days many fortunes were made on penny items (chewing gum, for instance). So because that penny had value, sinker-making was a way of saving money—just as it should be today. The old-timer considered this chore part of the fishing game and he

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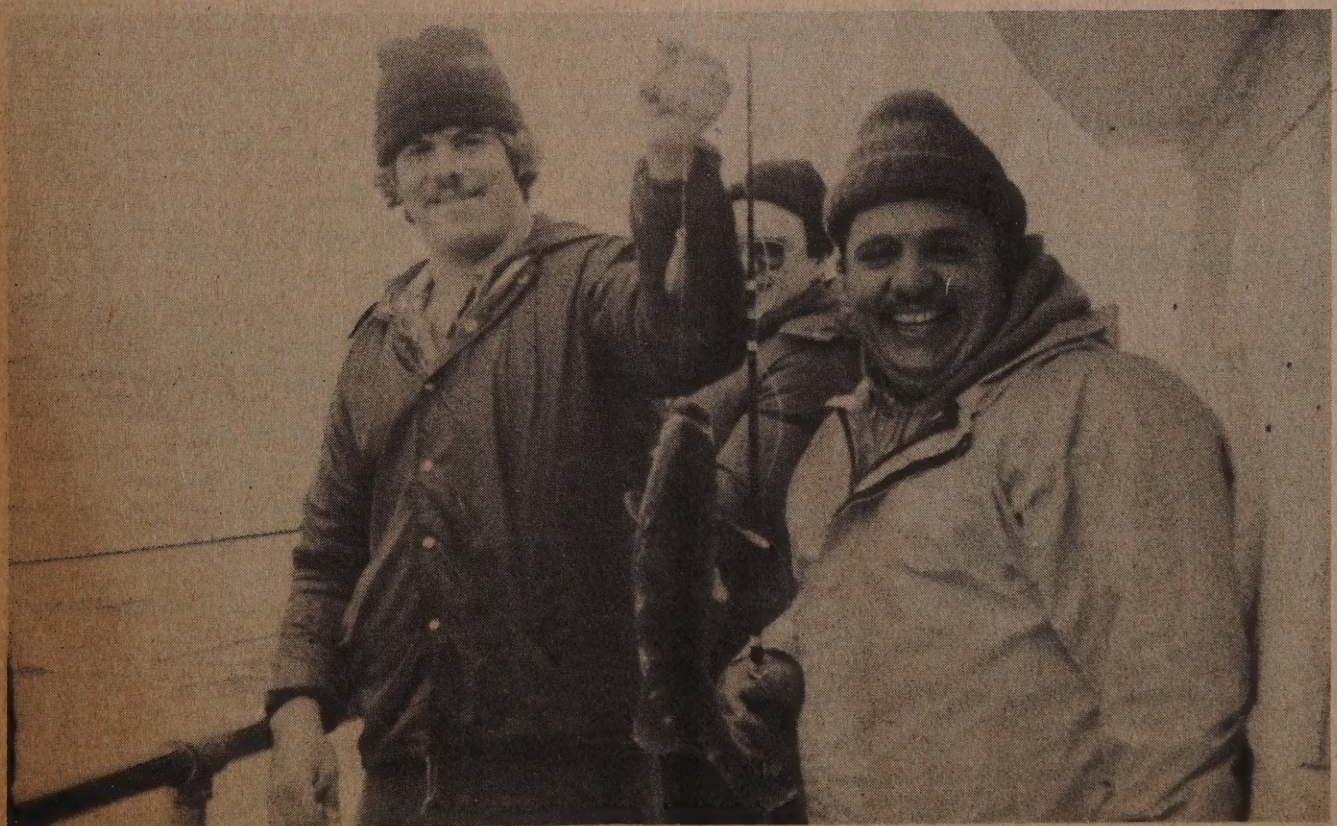

If you are a party boat fisherman—sinker making is for you.

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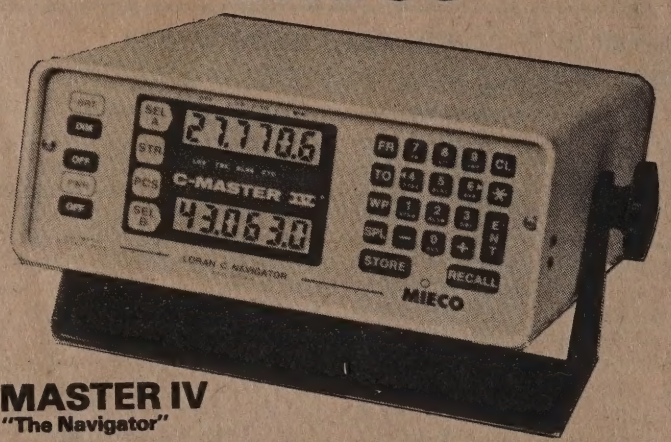

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often turned it into an enjoyable pastime as he and his buddies got together several times a year and spent hours making sinkers. And there was much camaraderie and jolly times about on the land. Why some of those "jolly" fellows didn't go up in smoke is one of the minor mysteries of my early fishing life.

It was a long time, however, before I owned a sinker mold; therefore, I tried to get in on these sinker-making sessions. But sometimes this didn't work too well simply because those fellows weren't overly-enthusiastic about my presence. While liberal to the extreme in their attitudes, they simply didn't enjoy the company of a twelve-year-old. Not that they had anything against twelve-year-old kids, but my shining around hindered their free spirit. There were certain stories, jokes, and gossip they wanted to bandy about as part of the activities. But my presence curtailed that. And then there was that nip or two from a bootleg bottle to sort of heighten the festivities. Let me say that I was just about tolerated and let it go at that.

But I did learn from these great sinker-making fishermen: things like correct temperatures for ease of pouring, how to prevent runs and cracked sinkers, and so forth. This knowledge stood me in good stead, especially when I was eventually given a sinker mold by one of these kindly fishermen. You can be sure I spent many hours making my own sinkers in the quiet of my kitchen.

Unfortunately, this gift mold would cast only sixteen ounce sinkers—one at a time. Slow going. But what's time to a kid? Much of my early party boat fishing was for sea bass and porgies during late summer, so those sixteen ouncers I made were much too heavy. But I solved that by hacksawing each in half. It then became necessary to pound a hole in the bottom half for the line, which I did with hammer and nail. Needless to say, this made an odd-looking sinker, one that could be recognized anywhere.

Now, why am I going into such detail in relating all this? Only because writing about my early sinker making allows me the opportunity to bring out what I've wanted to do for a long time: the fine seamanship and navigation skills of the party boat skippers of those long gone days. I find, too, that in order to do this, I shall have to digress a bit. My apologies.

When I first began fishing, there were no electronic aids of any kind aboard party boats. All the skipper needed was a good compass and an accurate ship's clock—plus, I might add, the keenest sight I've ever known. With these aids, a good skipper could put his vessel anywhere he wanted—and never miss. And it was my weird-looking homemade sinkers that brought this fact home to me.

As every novice fisherman does, I never gave thought to those skills required to pilot a party boat. To me, it was like riding to a pre-determined destination and back home again. One did it automatically. Of course, until then my party boat fishing entailed no experience with fog or snowstorm. I fished only on fair-weather days then. So where was that required skill I'd heard so much about? I was soon to find out.

During that time I did much of my party boat fishing aboard Canarsie's Rose R II, skippered by that master mariner, Captain Dick Persson. And during late summer, much of our fishing was done off Seabright, New Jersey. This was the ideal spot for sea bass and porgies. It was impossible not to get action. Full butter tubs were a common sight.

Even as a kid, I was a party boat fanatic. I just couldn't wait to get on board: the earlier I arrived, the better I liked it. And besides, being an early bird gave me a chance at the choice rail spots. I always made certain to get the spot on the port corner of the stern.

Well, anyway, I'd had a good day with the sea bass and porgies during this particular time I want to tell you about. I'd lost a lot of hooks and sinkers, too; but that was par for the course in that Seabright area. I'd caught so many fish, I sold the surplus to the neighborhood housewives. With the money from this, I

went fishing again the next day.

Back we sailed to Seabright and fished in what I thought was only the same general area. I had no idea I was fishing the exact spot as the day before until the fellow beside me at the rail pulled in a rig to which was attached one of my weird-looking sinkers. Later in the afternoon, two more were lifted aboard by the same fisherman. To me, this astounding event was proof positive that I had much to learn about party boat fishing. Evidently there was more to this sport than met the eye.

From that day to this, as you can imagine, I've had much respect for party boat skippers.

Now that I've gotten these tidbits out of the way, I'll tell you how I make sinkers, methods which I'm sure aren't much different from those used by other fishermen.

First of all, you must have a fair supply of lead. There's no point in making a small amount of sinkers. You might lose them in one or two trips, especially if you're wreck fishing. I usually make a hundred at a time—sometimes more, depending upon the mood. But rarely less.

Neighborhood service stations that do wheel balancing can provide an excellent source for lead. These stations often have used lead weights lying around. Some owners will charge a nominal fee, some will gladly give them away—especially if you happen to be a regular customer. I've been told that these weights are not pure lead. Don't worry about it. They work fine.

Perhaps you know your local plumber well. These hard-working gentlemen seem always to have scrap lead around the shop. It's worth the try. Do you belong to a rifle club? Just dig that lead out of the sand trap. Salvage and junk yards may be just what the doctor ordered.

Now to get to the operation.

I use an old aluminum pot for melting and a ladle deep enough to hold a half pint of molten lead and have always had satisfactory results. Any gas or electric stove will supply the needed temperatures.

Before pouring, it is advisable to place your mold over the heat source for a minute. Once hot enough so that the lead will run through the cavities without congealing, it is only occasionally when reheating is necessary. The secret to pouring sinkers quickly and easily is to have the lead the correct temperature. Too cold and the lead will not run freely through the cavity; too hot and it will seep through the bottom at the joint.

Molten lead is dangerous stuff; so be sure your work area is clutter-free. Have nothing in the way that may interfere with your transfer of the molten lead to the mold. You'll find a piece of scrap board handy. Use it to rest the mold as you pour. It is important for safety that all cold lead dropped into the pot be moisture-free. Don't overlook this safety factor!

Fill the ladle with enough molten lead so that you can pour the cavity without stopping to refill. Should you hesitate while pouring, your sinker's appearance will leave much to be desired.

The sinker is formed in seconds. Use a screwdriver or similar tool to open the mold, then pry the sinker loose, and with the aid of a pliers, drop it into a bucket of cold water. Be careful—that sinker is hot!

When you've poured all your sinkers, de-burr the holes. This isn't necessary, but doing so will prevent the line from chafing against the sharp edges. Store-bought sinkers are rarely de-burred, and this alone is one reason for the great loss experienced by many fishermen.

One last thing: be sure to have adequate ventilation when working indoors. I'm told lead fumes are toxic. I overlooked this item one time in a sinker-making article and I still hear about it.

Sinker-making will save you money. I find it enjoyable, and I know one thing. Having a seemingly endless supply of sinkers has a psychological effect on your fishing. You can fish those obstruction-littered places which are known to harbor large fish with little or no concern on your part. What does it matter how many sinkers you lose? There's plenty more where they came from.

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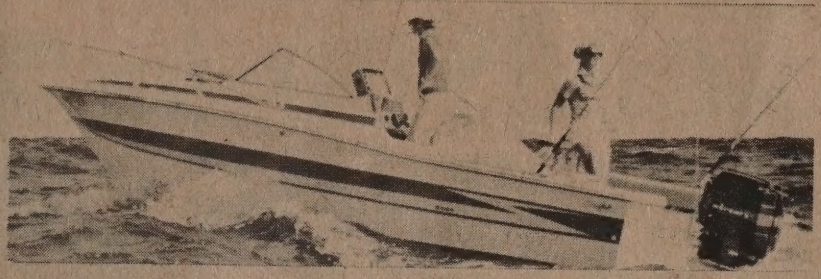

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THE WAY IT WAS

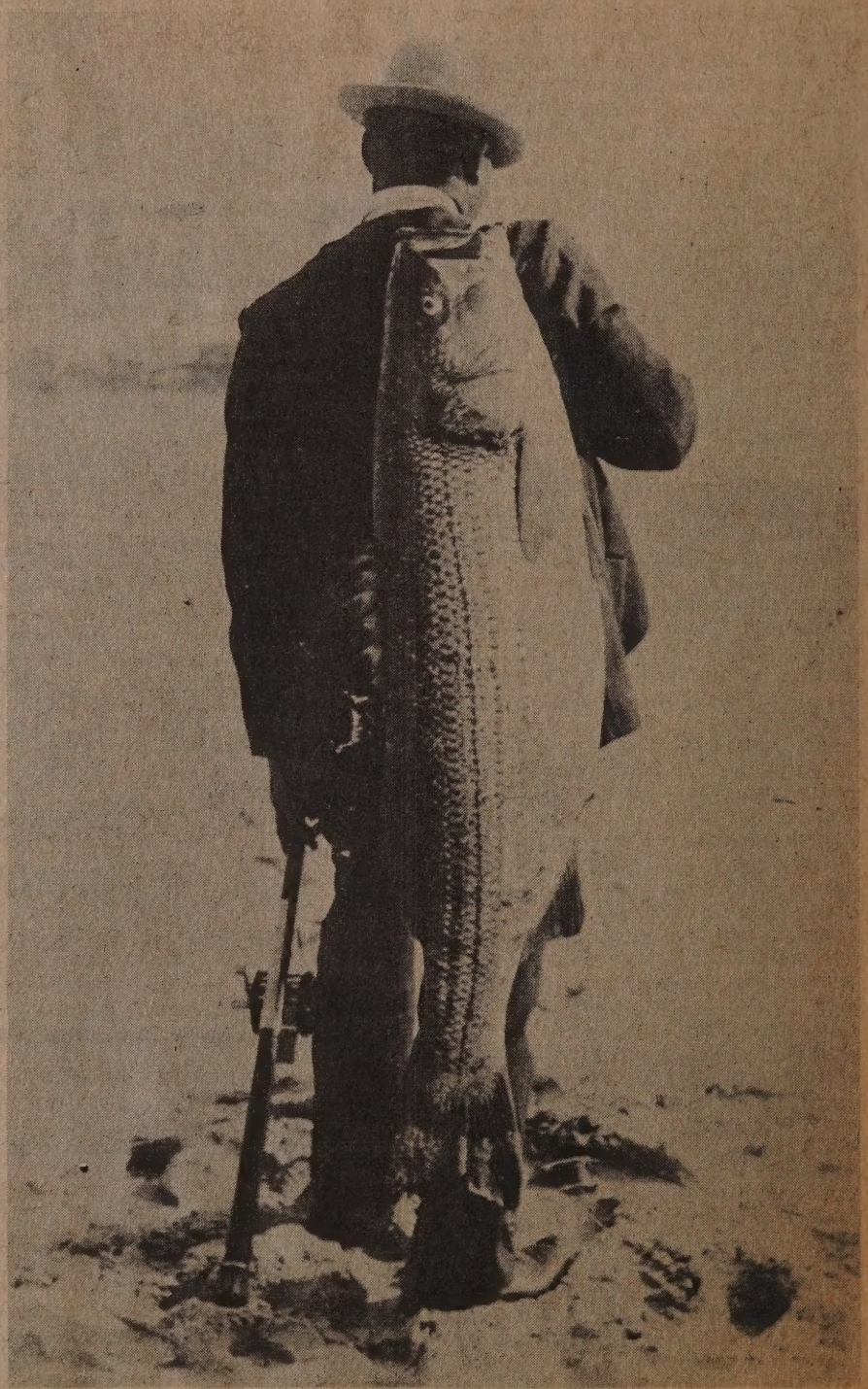
by Al Ristori

I'm sure that all Fisherman readers get as big a kick as I do out of the columns written by Matt Ahern which detail the great fishing that was available when he was a youngster. Of course, the time of the "Great Depression" seems like ancient history now; but it's even more interesting to speculate about the fishing that was available before the turn of the Century.

We can get a glimpse at how things were at that time by leafing through the pages of one of the most famous fish books of all times: "American Food and Game Fishes." This book is more commonly referred to by the names of the authors, Jordan and Evermann. David Starr Jordan, Ph.D. was a man of many talents, but best known as President of Stanford University. Barton Warren Evermann, Ph.D., was an ichthyologist with the United States Fish Commission. Their book was published by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, in 1902, and is somewhat of a condensation of an earlier effort. The 3,300 species of fish found north of the Isthmus of Panama were detailed in a book of four volumes and 3,313-pages called "The Fishes of North and Middle America.

Unusual in a book of this sort, is a preliminary chapter on fly fishing. The authors were evidently dedicated anglers, as well as the greatest ichthyologists of their time. Another interesting aspect of this very complete book is that sharks are not covered. In the introduction, the authors explain that they don't consider the sharks to be true fishes, "for they have no membrane-bones or gill covers, and the upper jaw is simply the front of the palate, no upper jaw bones being developed."

The fish nearest and dearest to most readers' hearts is probably the striped bass. Jordan and Evermann note that "though the striped bass has undoubtedly decreased greatly in abundance during the century, it is still an abundant fish. The catch on our Atlantic Coast for 1897 amounted to nearly one-and-a-half million pounds, valued at $128,000." While the authors seemed concerned with a decrease in the size of the fish, there didn't seem to be any lack of record setters at the time. For instance, they report a haul on Albemarle Sound, at Edenton, North Carolina, on May 6, 1896 which resulted in the capture of 38,000 lbs. of rockfish (the southern name for stripers)—including about 600 fish which averaged 60 lbs. each. Actually, those were just "schoolies"; there were several in the catch which



weighed 105 lbs. each! The roe of one fish weighed 44 lbs.!

The authors go on to note the capture of many other very large stripers. A big haul near Norfolk, Virginia yielded 600 stripers which AVERAGED 80 lbs. each! Other big catches in Albemarle Sound included one with many bass weighing 75-85 lbs. and another with "many of 85 lbs. and a few of 90 lbs." They further cite the fact that Dr. Henshall saw one weighed at over 100 lbs. in Baltimore and another at 104 lbs. in Cuttyhunk. Dr. Goode records a six footer weighing 112 lbs. from Orleans, Massachusetts. In modern history there have never been more huge stripers taken than in 1981. Is this the beginning of a trend that will lead to

super stripers such as were commonly netted before the turn of the Century? Your guess is as good as mine, though I suspect that fishing pressure will prevent any repetition of the large hauls of giant stripers which once came out of Albemarle Sound.

And what of the bluefish at that time? Apparently, bluefish were as abundant then as they are now—though the authors note that they are "very capacious" in their movements, "varying in numbers at particular localities in different years, and sometimes disappearing from certain regions for many years at a time." Jordan and Evermann describe the bluefish as a great game fish and among the best of food fishes, but also contributed to the mythology of their destructiveness with the following long paragraph:

"The bluefish is a carnivorous animal of the most pronounced type. As Professor Baird has well said, there is no parallel to the bluefish in point of destructiveness to the marine species on our coast. It has been likened to an animated chopping machine, the business of which is to cut to pieces and otherwise destroy as many fish as possible in a given space of time. Going in large schools, in pursuit of fish not much inferior to themselves in size, they move along like a pack of hungry wolves, destroying everything before them. Their trail is marked by fragments of fish and by the stain of blood in the sea, as, when the fish is too large to be swallowed entire, the hinder portion will be bitten off and the anterior part allowed to float or sink. It has been even maintained that such is the gluttony of this fish, that when the stomach becomes full the contents are disgorged and then again filled! It is certain that it kills more fish than it needs or can use. The amount of food they consume or destroy is incredibly great. It has been estimated at twice the weight of the fish in a day, and one observer says that a bluefish will destroy daily a thousand other fish. It has been estimated that there are annually on our coast from New Jersey to Monomoy a thousand million bluefish averaging 5 or 6 lbs. each in weight, and that these eat or destroy at the lowest estimate ten fish each day, or a total of ten thousand millions of fish destroyed every day. And as the bluefish remain on this coast at least 120 days, the total destruction amounts in round numbers to twelve hundred million millions of fish destroyed in a single season by this species. These would weigh at least three hundred thousand million pounds. And it must be remembered that in this estimate no account has been taken of those destroyed by bluefish under 3 lbs. in weight, vastly more numerous and all engaged simultaneously in the same butchery."

These rather fanciful estimates of the havoc applied to the various fishes of the East Coast by the bluefish have been repeated in literature throughout the century. Though there is no doubt about the killing ability of the chopper, studies carried on at the Sandy Hook Marine Laboratory showed that bluefish would feed until their stomachs were full—and then ignore the prey they had been gorging themselves on. The introduction of larger prey would turn them on again, but there was no evidence of the disgorging which is often attributed to them. However, it is true that they will cut bait fish in two and often ignore the falling piece. If the kill estimates provided Jordan and Evermann were true, there would probably be nothing left in the ocean now but bluefish!

If you think striped bass and bluefish were abundant before the turn of the century, you should have seen the mackerel! Jordan and Evermann talk about a school recorded in 1848 (location not given) which was a half mile wide, and at least 20 miles long. Another school sighted off Block Island in 1877 was estimated to contain 1,000,000 barrels! However, then, as now, there were periods of scarcity. The 1885 catch was 330,000 barrels, but that dropped to only 80,000 barrels in 1886 and averaged half of that during the succeeding 10 years. This led to an attempt by the United States Fish Commission to artificially propagate mackerel. In 1986, 24,000,000 eggs

(Continued on page 51.)

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WESTERN LONG ISLAND SOUND:

LOOKING AHEAD

by Ted Keatley

When asked what he had done during the Siege of Paris in 1870, one elderly churchman replied simply, "I survived." Combine that understated pragmatism with the poet's lament that "winter is the melancholy season of the year" and you have my state of mind as I begin this article on fishing in Western Long Island Sound. For many years, I disliked winter. Now, I hate it with a passion which should be reserved for animate things.

The only bright prospect is that we may have the first signs of flounder action before the month is out. Some years ago, several of the party boats began sailing on Washington's Birthday and icy-fingered passengers pulled a few benumbed flounders out of the water in such places as Oyster Bay.

Actually, I am not too optimistic about the coming flounder season since the past two years left much to be desired. The Spring of 1979 was fantastic and the Norwalk Islands provided some of the best fishing that I ever experienced, but I haven't had too much success since then. There have been plenty of fish—the problem was size.

Of course, I could be pleasantly surprised to find that a body of big flounders had moved into the western end of the Sound as the water warmed.

I kept a boat in Mamaroneck from 1948 until 1975 and have had dock space in Stamford ever since then. Over these thirty-odd years, there are few places between Larchmont and Norwalk where I have not found good flounder fishing on occasion. However, it is not possible to rely on the same locations year in and year out.

For reasons known only to the fish themselves, productive areas vary from season to season. I suppose that it is primarily a matter of food supply. I often have used the free lunch counter of pre-Prohibition days as an analogy. When Grandpa (great-grandpa for younger readers) was sowing his wild oats, the saloon with the best free lunch attracted most of the customers. Fish react much the same way. They go where the food is plentiful and tasty.

Since I moved my boat to Stamford, I have had seasons when the fishing was excellent off the old Stamford Lighthouse, in front of the beach at Greenwich Point (Todd's) and between Tavern and Sheffield Islands in Norwalk. I also have found good action on the Long Island side in Oyster Bay, on the east side of Lloyds and at Duck Island in Northport Harbor.

The author is not too optimistic about L.I. Sound's upcoming flounder season.

So, where am I going to fish in 1982? Frankly, I haven't the vaguest idea at this point. I will just have to experiment and listen for reports from various areas.

One thing which I have noted at Stamford and Norwalk is that the peak of fishing seems to be a little later than it was in Westchester. When I had my boat in Mamaroneck, I always felt that the arrival of May meant the end of good flounder fishing. In Connecticut, early May seems to be the peak of the run so far as big fish are concerned. Is this because the very deep offshore areas slow the warming of the water? There is a 125' hole not too far off the Stamford Cows and more than 200' between Buoys 24C and 11B in mid-Sound outside of Norwalk's Sheffield Island.

Freshwater fishermen place great emphasis on water temperature and talk learnedly of thermoclines and other phenomena of water stratification. Those who fish saltwater seem less inclined to worry about these fine points, possibly because the prospect for some degree of success is much greater. Are we ignoring an effective technique?

I would hazard a guess that the majority of those who fish hotspots such as 13 and the obstruction buoy off Eatons or Buoy 15 at Lloyds have little conception of the bottom contours. This information can be the secret of success.

Buoy 13 is at the end of a reef extending out from a point on shore just west of the lighthouse. The chart shows 14' inside the can dropping to more than 30' as you move outside it. The turbulence caused by these rapid changes holds baitfish in the area on moving tides. This attracts blues, weakfish and bass. Striped bass fishing is most productive from mid-October into early November as the fish school for their migration to wintering areas in the Hudson River. Cow bass can be taken here, but fish above the low teens are not too common.

Just to the west at the obstruction buoy, depths range from 16' to the low 30s at the bottom of the tide until you are southwest of the marker. Then the bottom drops so precipitously that my chart recorder goes off the 60' scale before I have a chance to flip the switch to a deeper range. On a calm day, it is easy to see the dropoff

on a moving tide since there is an abrupt change from flat water to turbulence. The depth is over 90' only a short distance from the buoy. The area of action can vary, but the fish are most likely to be found immediately to the east of the dropoff.

Actually, the whole distance from 13 to the obstruction buoy has potential, but success is most likely close to one of the markers. A look at the chart will show other reefs slightly south/southeast of 13 and these also can be productive.

At Lloyds, there is a rocky ledge extending from Diamond Point to buoy 15. The water on top of the reef gradually drops to about 25' at the buoy and the bottom then falls away rapidly to over 60'.

The area is noted primarily for weakfish and school blues. However, the big blues often show and large striped bass sometimes are taken close to shore, particularly on the easterly side. There often is good action with migrating school bass in the fall.

When I was weakfishing at Lloyds last summer, I had my best success after dark. Since there are no visible shore bearings on the Long Island side at night, I had to rely upon the flasher on 15 against the lights over in Connecticut for approximate positioning. Once I had begun the drift, I would watch my depth recorder chart. It was interesting to see the marks for bait and larger fish increase as I came to the up-current side of the reef. When I had passed the high point and started down the other side, nothing showed on the paper except bottom. It was time to run up above the rip and start another drift.

For years, I regarded depth recorders as an unnecessary gimmick. Finally, I was conned into buying a secondhand flasher for $15. After using it a few times, I became a convert and gradually worked my way up to the Lowrance 1510 chart machine which I now use. I would feel completely lost if I were to go out without a depth recorder. It has found fish for me innumerable times and has become indispensable in positioning the boat for deep water blackfishing in the fall.

I always keep the chart running at low speed when wire line trolling; an interesting reading often has prompted me to circle back through an area which proved to be productive even though the fish had a case of lockjaw on the first pass.

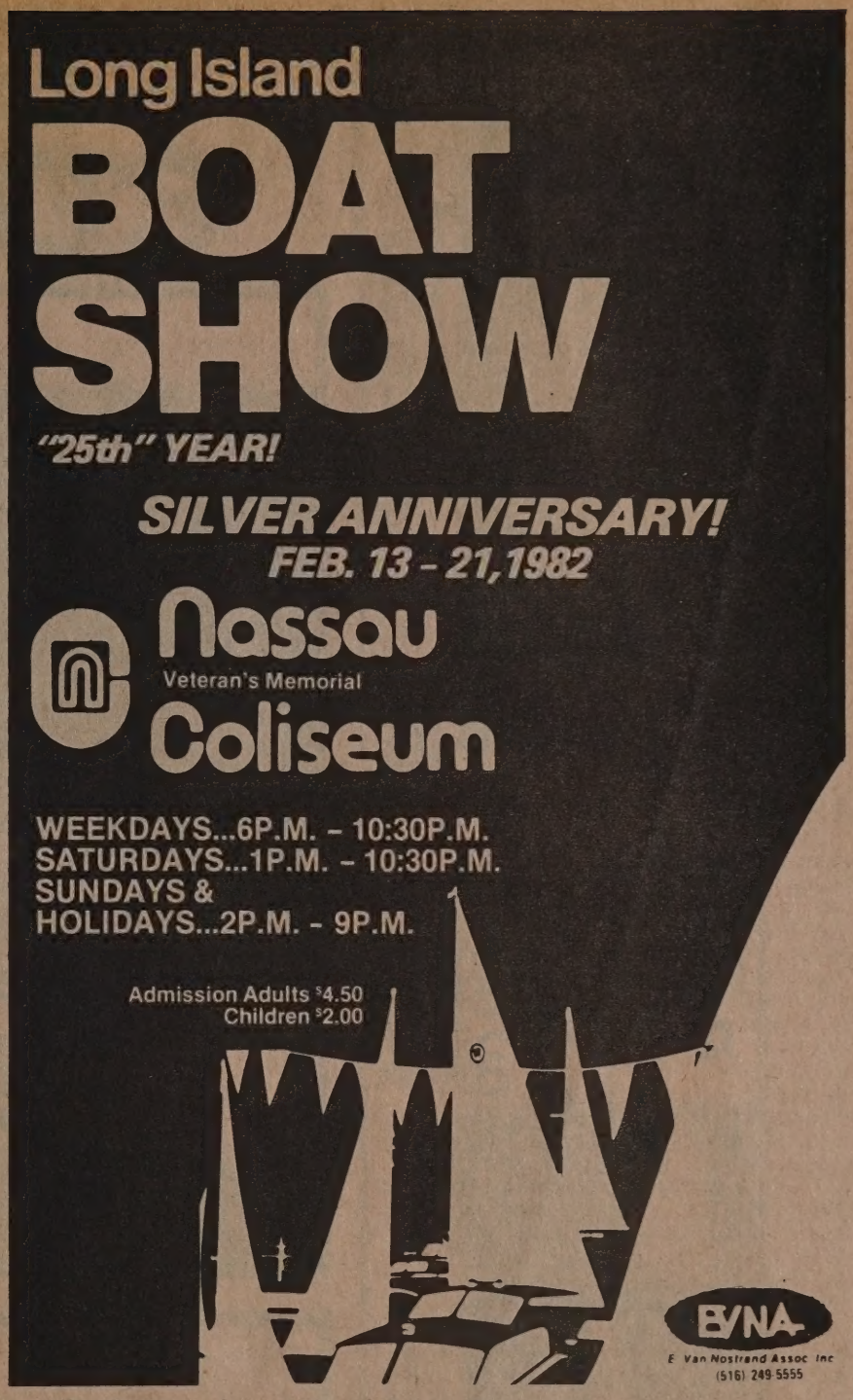
I still rely on sight bearings to a large extent for reaching a general area and then use the recorder for final positioning.

Sight bearings are basically a matter of triangulation. A common one would be a line extending from a tall building or water tower through a readily identifiable point on the shore line. Select two ranges that are at least 45° apart and prominent enough to be discernible on a hazy day. If you have developed a pair of these lines, you can return to the same spot by following one of them to the point where it intersects with the other.

Buoys are poor bearing makers. Not only does the Coast Guard have a habit of dropping off shore buoys a hundred yards or more from the original location after servicing, but even the normal movement with wind and tide on the scope of the chain can cause substantial distortion if the buoy is much closer to you than the shore bearing.

Positioning with shore bearings can be surprisingly accurate. I relied upon them completely for locating Steeple Reef during fall blackfishing before I had a depth recorder. The reef lies about a mile from Scotch Caps at the end of Rye's Milton Point and is just outside a line between buoys 40A and 42. Rock outcroppings in about 40' of water are surrounded by unproductive mud and clay bottom.

Now is the time to begin laying out battle plans for the coming season's campaigns. One of the best ways is to spend a few winter evenings studying the Coast and Geodetic Charts for the area. These are available at most of the larger marine dealers and sporting goods stores. Although the large charts are more detailed, they are not too practical if you wish to bring one with you on a fishing excursion. Chart 12364 New Haven Harbor Entrance and Port Jefferson to Throgs Neck, actually a booklet of fold-out charts, is much more convenient.



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1981 FISH CONTEST

OVERALL

Flounder	5 lb.	Walter Bohnenbe
Blackfish	12 lb. 8 oz.	John Frame
Cod	64 lb.	Steven Werlin
Fluke	14 lb. 4 oz.	Victor Consiglio
Striped Bass	76 lb.	Bob Rocchetta
Bluefish	24 lb. 8 oz.	Dr. Norton E. Sch
Weakfish	14 lb. 6 oz.	Joe Eisinger
Pollack	31 lb.	Bob Young
Bluefin Tuna	750 lb.	Ronnie DeLuca
Mako Shark	311 lb.	Carl Carlson
White Marlin	96 lb.	Louis Falcone
Swordfish	404 lb.	John Butler
Brown Trout	8 lb.	Davis Canale
Brook Trout	2 lb. 9 oz.	Wayne Mahy
Rainbow Trout	18 lb.	Joseph Rosa, Jr.
Largemouth Bass	8 lb. 2 oz.	Ernie Hyndman

SURF FISHI

Striped Bass	69 lb. 8 oz.	Stephen Petri, J
Bluefish	22 lb.	Bill Sheppard
Weakfish	11 lb. 9 oz.	Joe Roman

JUNIOR

Flounder	3 lb. 5 oz.	Alyssa Ricca
Blackfish	11 lb. 3 oz.	Anne Lindsay
Fluke	11 lb. 11 oz.	Michael Haugh
Striped Bass	54 lb. 5 oz.	Bob Dragonette
Bluefish	18 lb. 9 oz.	Marc Ungaro
Weakfish	12 lb. 14 oz.	Lester Castella
Bluefin Tuna	458 lb.	John Butler
Mako Shark	213 lb.	Steven Szoke
Brown Trout	3 lb. 10 oz.	Jim Curto
Brook Trout	2 lb. 8 oz.	John Carlson
Largemouth Bass	6 lb. 5 oz.	Terry Gross

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Massapequa, N.Y.	Bayview Marine
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Piscataway, N.J.	Hoffman's Anchorage
Darien, Ct.	Star Island Yacht Club
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Sayville, N.Y.	J&R Sport Center
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GUIDE WRAPS

Part Six — *by C. Boyd Pfeiffer*

Guide wraps for building or repairing rods are easy. First, the basic wrap is the same for all types of rods, all types of guides. Second, no knots are used—the end of the thread is wrapped over to begin the wrap, and the other end is pulled under the wrap with a loop of thread. If you ever learned how to whip a rope as a Boy Scout, or in a boating class, you know the basic technique of wrapping a guide.

Before beginning guide wrapping, however, pick the guides for your rod. Make sure that you have enough, but not too many. A general guide is as follows:

Fly Rods: One guide for each foot of length of fraction of foot six inches or more. Thus, 7 guides for a 7 ft. rod, 8 for a 7½ and 8 for an 8 ft. rod.

Casting Rods: 4½ ft. to 5½ ft., four guides; 5½ ft., five guides; 6 ft., 6 guides.

Spinning Rods: 4-5½ ft., four guides; 6 ft., five guides; 6½ ft., 6 guides; 7 ft., 7 guides.

Boat Rods: On standard 6½-7½ ft. length, five to six guides.

IGFA Rods: Five roller guides.

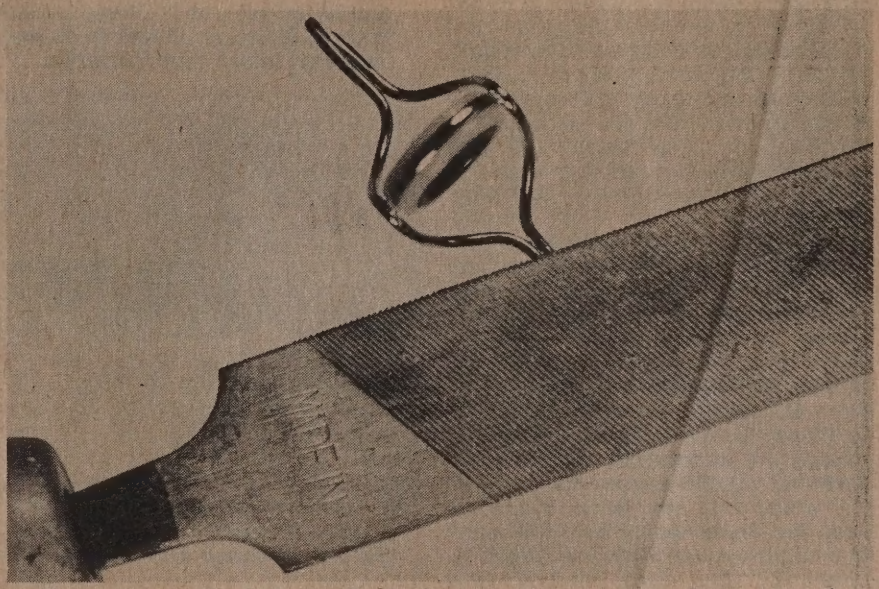
Surf Rods: One guide for each two feet of rod length or fraction of foot over ten inches of rod length. Thus, five guides for a 10 ft. rod, six guides for an 11 ft. rod and six guides for a 12 ft. rod.

Note that the above does not include the tiptop, which is in addition in all rods.

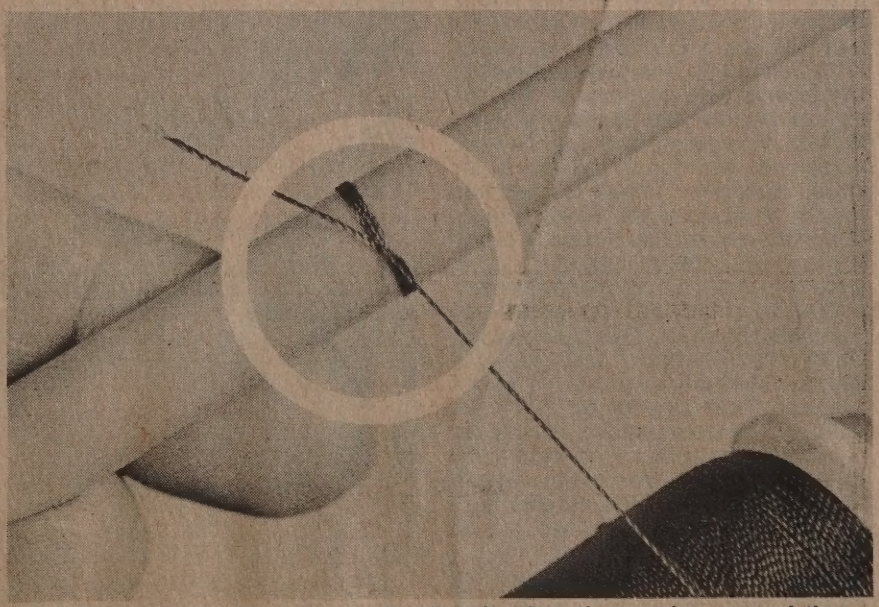
Once you have the guides, it is also important to space them out properly so that the rod will cast well when complete. Here, you need to know the proper position for the butt guide. A general rule for this is as follows, with measurement taken from the forward part of the rod handle to the first, or butt guide. The range of distance would vary with the length of the rod.

Fly Rods—19''-22''
Casting Rods—14''-22''
Spinning Rods—16''-22''
Saltwater spinning Rods—18''-24''
Surf Spinning Rods—22''-32''
Boat Rods—12''-15''
Popping Rods—18''-22''

Once you have placed the butt guide in position, place the other guides alongside of the rod blank so that the distance between guides increases as you progress towards the butt. Mark these spots on the rod. If you wish to test the rod by tapping the guides in place, be sure to wrap the ferrule with thread before casting to prevent possible splits and damage to this joint. If testing, try the rod with a practice weight typical of the lures you would use and make any necessary adjustments.



Filing the guide feet as shown is necessary to make for a smooth transition of the thread from the blank up onto the guide. Failure to do this will often result in gaps.



Method of beginning a wrap, showing the thread wrapping around the blank and over the end of the thread. Tension will hold the thread after several wraps.

Once you are satisfied, you can fasten the guides to begin wrapping. However, to make sure that the thread will progress from the blank to

(Continued on next page.)

the guide foot without any gaps, use a file or grindstone to file the end of each guide foot to a knife edge. Remove any burs and tape the guides in place, in line with the spine as outlined in Part III of this series.

Use 1/4'' masking tape and tape the guide so that the end of the guide foot is exposed and can be wrapped down with thread before removing the tape. Once the guides are taped in place, mark the rod at equal distance on either side of the guide ring, so that you will have even wraps on both sides of each guide. Calipers make it easy to do this, although a rule will also help. Usually a wrap that is about 1½ times the length of the guide foot on large guides and twice the length of the guide foot on small guides. Also, it helps to begin measurements at the tip end of the rod, so that you can increase wrap lengths as you progress down the rod and onto the larger guides, for an even, attractive rod wrapping.

Once you have marked the beginning of the wrap, take the thread and wrap it over the rod so that you hold the end. Cross over this end with the thread and continue until several wraps are around the end of the thread. At this point, the thread will hold. Cut the end of the thread close to the wrap. Continue wrapping up toward and onto the guide foot. Make sure that you do not get any gaps in the wrap. One way to do this is to keep the thread going onto the wrap at a slight angle so that the thread is constantly laid down next to the previous wrap. Once you have five to six turns on the guide foot, remove the tape and continue the wrap until about five to ten turns from the end of the wrap (the junction of the guide foot with the guide frame shoulder).

At this point, take a scrap piece of thread and form a loop. Lay the loop down with the loop pointing towards the end of the wrap, or the guide ring. Wrap over this loop to the end of the wrap. Hold the thread to maintain tension and cut the end of the thread. Tuck the end of the thread through the loop and pull the loop through the wrap to pull the end of the thread out.

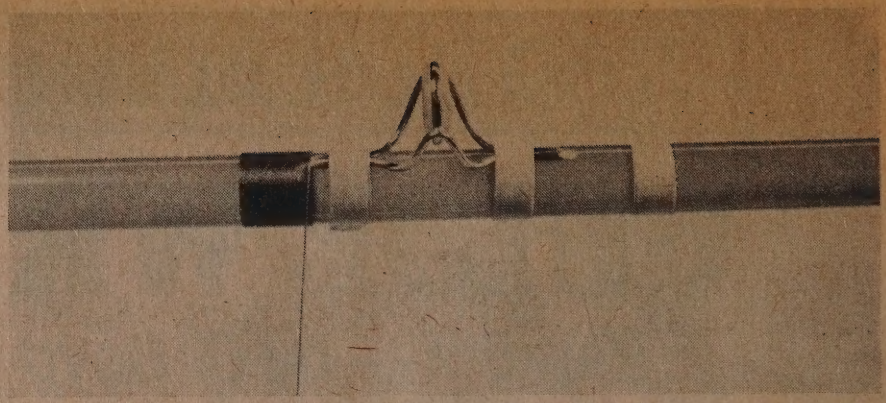
Cut the end of the thread to complete the wrap. There are several ways to cut the thread. One way is to slice the thread at the top of the wrap. A better way is to open up a gap in the wrap at the point where the thread comes through, and use a razor blade to cut straight down on the thread. Make sure that the razor blade is in line with the threads so that you do not cut the wrap. Then close up the gap with a burnisher. This hides the end of the wrap completely so that there is no little tag end sticking through.

Another way—one that professionals often use—is to tuck the end of the thread through the loop and pull the loop tight against the wrap. Then cut the thread at this point, making sure that the tag end is shorter than the distance that the loop will pull through. When you pull the loop, the end of the thread will completely disappear and only the loop will be pulled out from between the wraps.

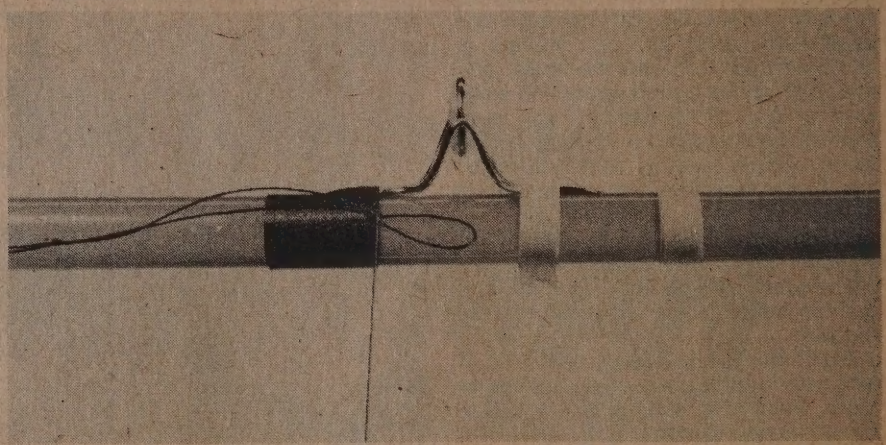
Reverse the rod to wrap the other side of the guide. On all guides always begin on the blank and work up onto the guide foot.

There are a number of variations to this basic wrap, which, for want of a better term, we will call a single wrap. Variations of this basic technique include:

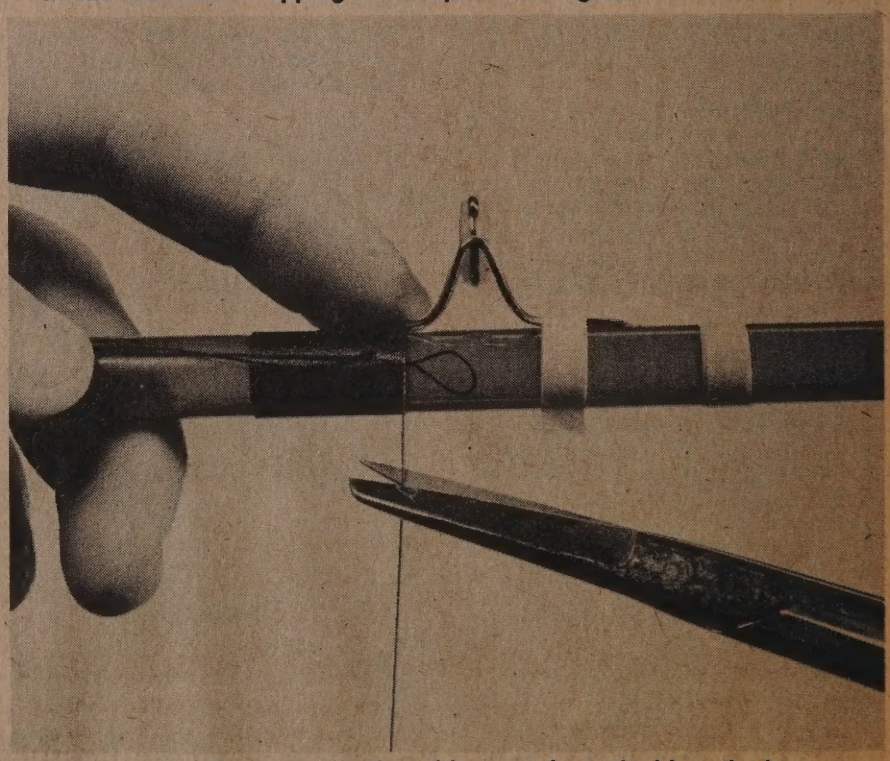
Double Wrap: This double wrap is



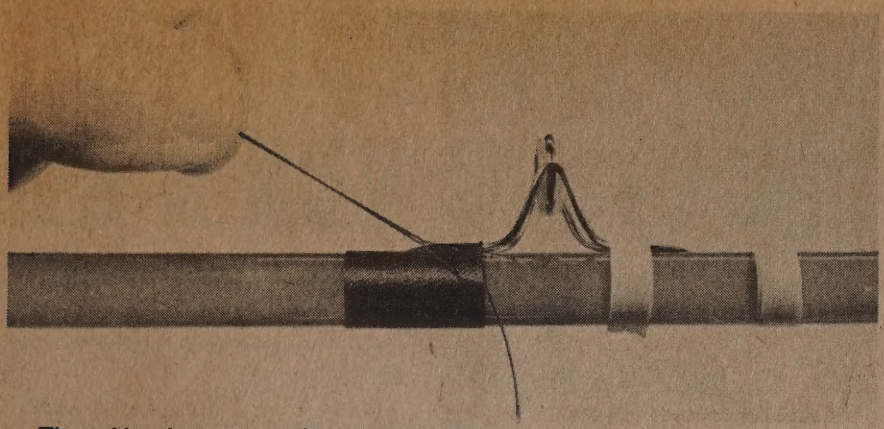
Continue the wrap of thread as shown, with the thread wrapping up over the end of the guide foot as shown. Tape from the guide foot can now be removed to continue the wrap.



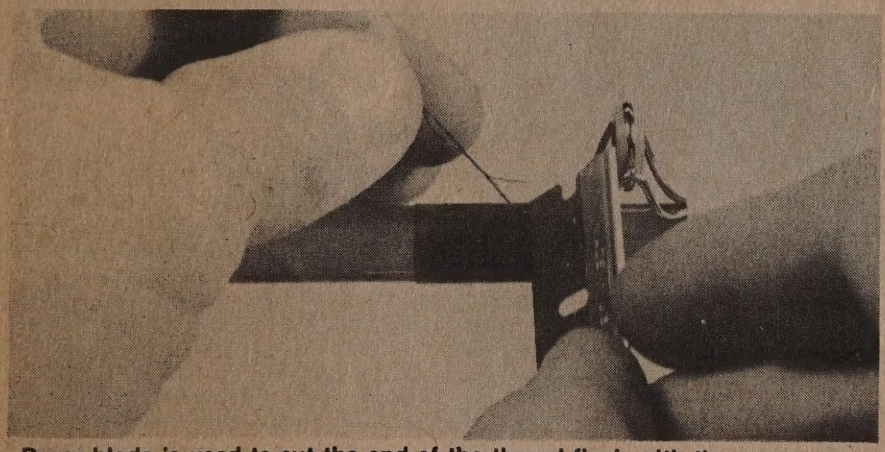
Loop of thread laid down on the guide wrap to pull through the end of the thread. Continue wrapping over loop to end of guide foot.



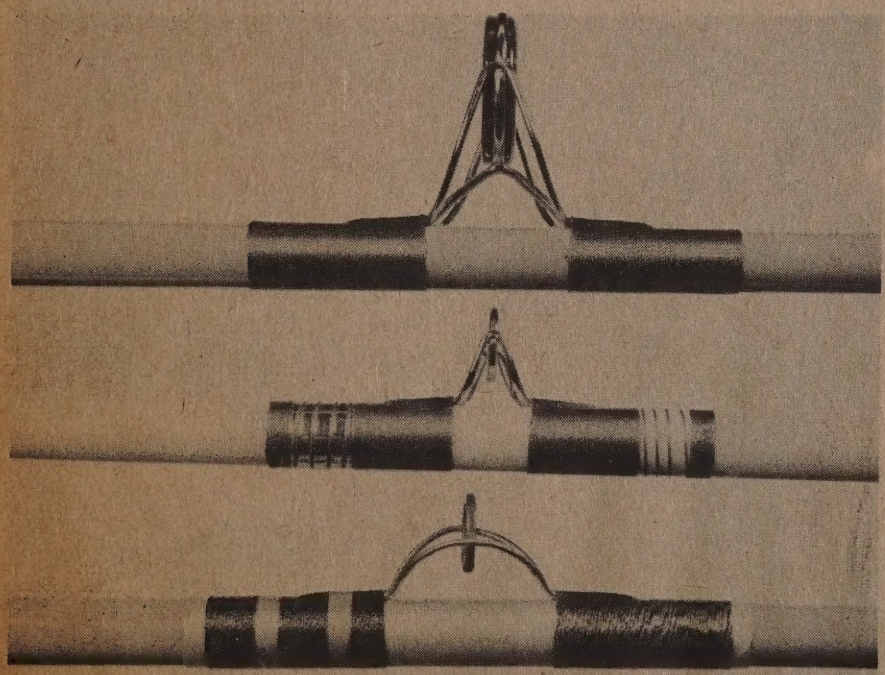
At the end of the wrap, the thread is cut to be tucked into the loop.



Thread has been cut and tucked into the loop and pulled through the end of the wrap as shown.



Razor blade is used to cut the end of the thread flush with the wrap as shown. Other methods are described in text.



Examples of rod wraps. Top: single wrap on both guides; center—spiral wrap over mylar (left) and spiral wrap over blank (right). Bottom: wrap with space dye thread (left) and wrap with two-tone thread (right). Bottom wrap over underwrap.

easy to do since it only involves running the thread up on top of the wrap at the end of the single wrap, to double back on top of the first wrap. This doubling can be part-way, halfway or almost to the end for more strength. Most double wraps are about halfway back. End this wrap the same as the single wrap. The only difference here is that you will point the loop of thread away from the guide ring, since the wrap will now be going in reverse direction.

Spiral Wrap: This wrap is easy with only a little practice since it only involves making the single wrap beginning, then after about five to six turns, spiral wrapping the thread so that the blank will show between the threads. Spacing can be little or great, as you prefer. Make the wrap solid before reaching the guide foot and continue as in the single wrap.

Spiral Wrap Over Mylar: This is the same as Spiral Wrap, but done over a wrapping of mylar or similar tape placed on the blank in the proper position before the wrap is begun. The tape shows through the spirals. This wrap and the spiral wrap are most common on less expensive factory rods.

Banded Wrap: This wrap is similar to the spiral wrap except that only one turn of the rod is made as you make a gap in the thread. Then make four to six turns of the thread close together to make a band, then a gap, another band, etc. The result is a wrap in which there are several separate bands of thread before the main wrap up on the guide foot is reached. Finish as for the single wrap.

Jump Wrap: This wrap is not as good as the other because of one major problem, but it allows you to wrap both sides of the guide with one thread wrap, rather than making a wrap for each guide foot. Do it by making the single wrap, but at the end do not use a loop. Instead, continue to the end of the guide, and spiral the wrap around and under the center of the guide to the shoulder of the opposite guide foot. Then continue as above along the foot, onto the blank, and then finish with a thread loop as with the single wrap above.

The problem with this wrap is that the thread under the center of the guide will show, leaving a single thread that is easier to get caught and frayed. Also, since the guide feet taper down to the blank, it is harder to control the thread to keep the thread from slipping and forming a gap at this point. Usually reduced tension at this point will help accomplish this.

In addition to the above wraps with solid colors of thread, you can get even more variety by using some of the two-tone threads that have a shimmering effect, or the space dye thread which has a banded effect. There is also a variegated five-color thread. In all cases, the final appearance will vary with the blank diameter. Thin blanks will make for wide bands while thick diameter blanks will form narrow bands of thread. In addition, you can make a wrap of monofilament using any color mono. Match the size of the mono to the size of the thread that you would normally use: A on light spinning and fly rods; D on casting, spinning and light saltwater rods; and E on heavy rods. It is also possible to use separate thread colors to place a narrow trim wrap at the end of each wrap for additional contrast and decoration.

NEXT WEEK: Decorative Wraps—basics of simple diamonds.

A CASE FOR FROSTBITE

by Guy DeBlasio

This city boy turns to Sheepshead Bay's open boat fleet for winter fun with whiting and ling.

It was a cold, snowy night; the kind most fishermen spend at home going over their fishing tackle and reliving fishing experiences of the past season. Such were the conditions when I decded to shoot a call to Kevin Bradshaw, Captain of the Dorothy B VII, a party boat which sails out of Sheepshead Bay. "Hi Kevin, how's the fishing?" "Super fishing, there's whiting, ling, and even some mackerel out there, but the best part is that it's all local fishing—the Tin Can Grounds, Ambrose Channel and Scotland Buoy. A short ride from the dock, Guy." Kevin went on to say he was getting out the next day because he had the Howard Beach Motor Boat Club with about 50 of their members coming down, along with a few of the boat's regulars. "We're sailing 6AM instead of our regular 8AM departure, so be early." I welcomed the prospect of some good action and hit the sack.

It was 5:30 a.m. when I arrived at Pier 6. I could see a lot of activity on board with anglers rigging their rods and preparing terminal gear, while others were in the cabin putting on extra clothing and sipping hot coffee to fight off winter's bite. The mates were equally busy. Bill Holstein was making sure everyone got on board safely and stored their gear while mate Robert Heagney was cutting up the herring we were going to use for the day's fishing. Part-time mate Joey Whitehouse was rigging up boat rental rods and in-between rods cleared the rails of the snow which had fallen the night before.

I settled into a spot up in the bow and began to rig up. My tackle consisted of a 7' medium-heavy action rod and a conventional reel loaded with 25 lb. test mono. At the working end of my line I tied a loop to which I attached a 12 oz. sinker. About 12" up the line I tied a 3/0 long shank hook and another foot above that, I tied in a second hook. I prefer to fish with just two hooks. There are anglers who fish with three hooks using the same basic setup and still others who

Anglers rig up prior to departure. For those needing assistance, mates will readily lend a hand.

run their leaders through pieces of red tubing. This is done for two reasons: 1) the tubing holds the hooks and leader away from your main line and prevents a lot of unnecessary tangles; 2) the red tubing, I am told, attracts whiting and mackerel.

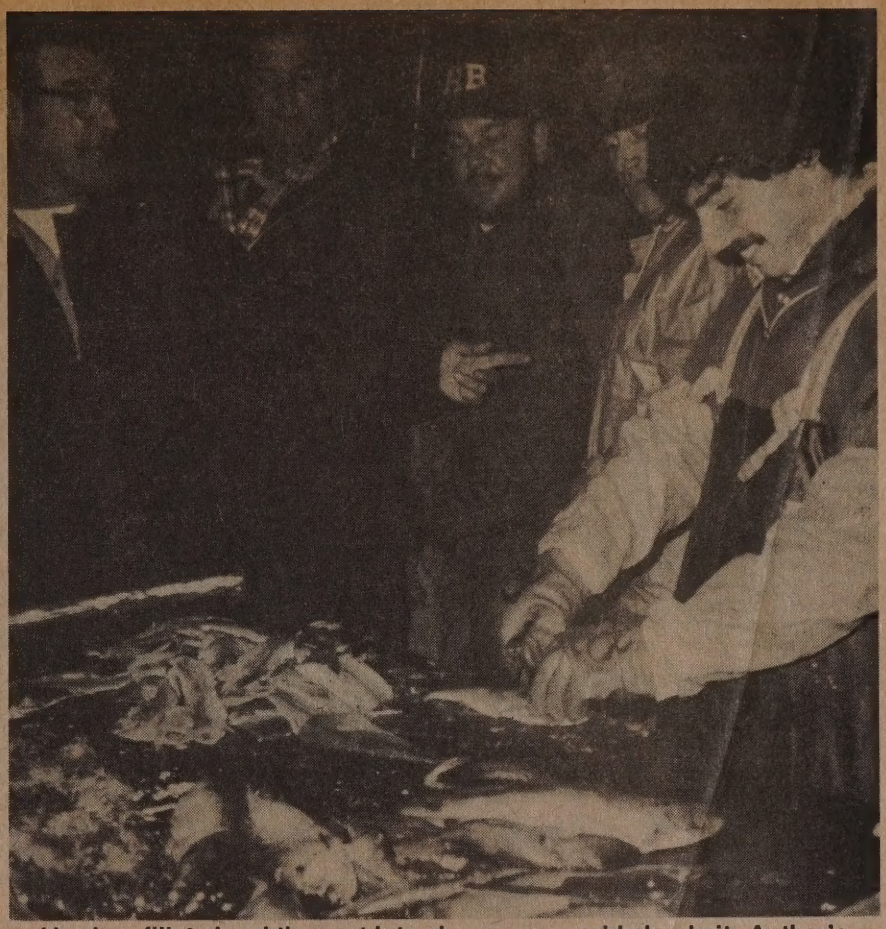
The boat slipped away from its dock and headed up the channel towards the fishing grounds. The first stop was the Tin Can Grounds. Kevin ordered the anchor lowered and before the final tie could be made to secure the hook, I heard an angler sing out, "fish on!" In short order, there were fish flying over the rails from the bow to the stern. The action consisted of a mixed bag of whiting, ling and some of the biggest kind of Boston mackerel. After taking a few photos of the action, I had to wet a line myself. I baited both hooks with herring chunks and sent my offering into the depths. Before the sinker hit bottom, I felt something take my bait. I knew by the way the fish was reacting that it was no whiting or ling. Sure enough, as my rig came into view, two mackerel were running every which way. I quickly hoisted them aboard, put them in my pail, and re-baited. This time it made it to the bottom with no interference. I raised my rod up and down a few times and then let it come to rest on the bottom. As soon as I stopped this slow jigging technique, a fish struck. The hectic action continued for most of the day.

We made two other drops on the trip. The first was at a spot called Gedney Channel. It lies on the New Jersey side of Ambrose Channel and for many years was known only to New York Bight and northern New Jersey party boat captains. There have been no channel marker buoys for years, but one thing was certain: there was no lack of fish here. After the second stop, I joined the skipper in the wheelhouse. Kevin said we were going to make one more stop at Ambrose Tower before going home. Once we neared our destination, Kevin began monitoring his Loran set and the scope of his fish finder. The captain was guiding the Dorothy B over a wreck. Once he found what he was looking for, he ordered the anchor lowered.

I went down to the cutting table and filleted a few of the smaller whiting which, in my opinion, make the best bait. Whiting and very large ling kept everyone busy at this last stop. The ling were in the 3-7 lb. class.

Just to prove that these winter excursions hold their share of surprises, three members of the group from Howard Beach hauled in a 30 lb. angler fish which took two whole whiting and a ling on three separate hooks. This made the day complete.

On the way home, I was having coffee in the bow and was joined by one of the club members. We both agreed that a dose of this cold weather fun is still the best medicine in the world for open boat anglers looking to escape the winter blahs.



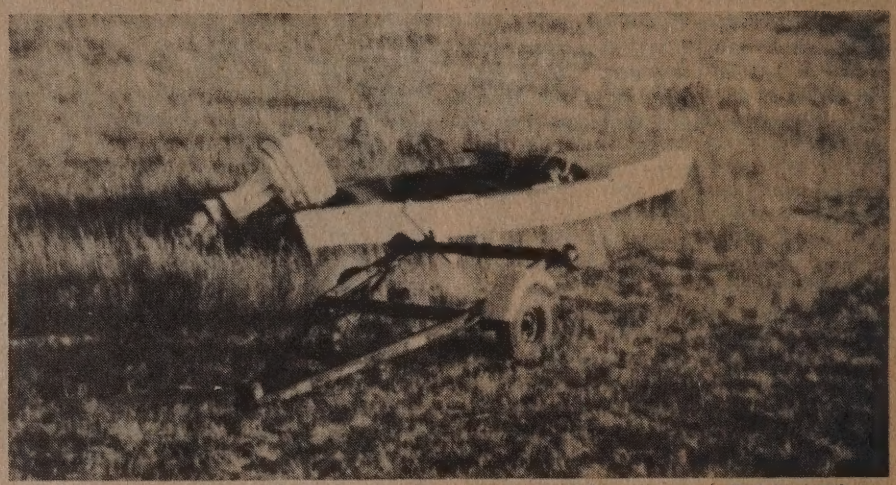
Herring, filleted and then cut into pieces, are provided as bait. Author's favorite bait is a piece of whiting.

Besides the enjoyment these trips provide, plenty of good eating is amost guaranteed.

MARINE INSURANCE: ARE YOU COVERED?

by Charley Soares

Would you consider going into a tackle store and purchasing a grab bag of fishing lures, sight unseen, and store it aboard your fishing machine with the expectation that when you had the occasion to use them they would be exactly what you needed? Not I, and certainly not you. An illogical situation? Not at all when compared to the manner in which some fishermen buy their boat insurance. Ask a few boat owners about their coverage and they might mumble something about X-# of $s and promptly change the subject. One friend has his wife handle all his insurance and when asked why, he simply states that if something goes wrong he can blame her. Blind faith has never been a good substitute for common sense.



This rig never got to its destination and what began as a fishing trip ended up a tragedy. The boom on the trailer was so badly rusted it came away from the towing vehicle and put the rig over into the swale. Are you covered for such an accident?

The following discussion is neither a course in Marine Insurance, nor is it intended to be ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT INSURANCE, BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK. My purpose is to provide you with some of my thoughts and experiences and hopefully a better understanding of marine insurance which could save you some of your hard-earned money, grief or both. It has been offered by some fairly knowledgeable individuals that understanding M.I. is akin to grasping the theory of nuclear fission. I write from several points of view: that of a policyholder, claimant, and as an insurance claims investigator.

Fishermen as a group tend to be less concerned with insurance than sailors and other boat owners (they are certainly no less vulnerable to losses) and consequently, they are not as well informed or protected. Again, this is not a class indictment of fishermen; just my observations from over the years. The most logical area to begin with is who needs insurance. Both the fisherman who trailers his small rig to and from the water and the fellow with the 26' boat at the marina require protection in varying degrees and amounts. Prudent boatmen, like good businessmen, protect their investments and do not subject their property to unnecessary risks. To put it another way, let's assume you had $5,000 in cash. Would you keep it at home in a Mason jar, or safeguard it by putting it in the bank or a money market certificate? Have you considered the alternatives to insuring your boat? A few of my friends have older custom wooden boats, which are the kind of risks frowned on by most marine underwriters. Although these boats meet Coast Guard requirements, several of them could not make the kind of structural changes requested by the surveys and consequently their hulls are uninsured. Could you afford to replace or make major repairs to your boat? Many of us with limited means could not and would be wiped out with even a partial loss.

This rig was coming from a busy ramp when its axle snapped and caused the boat to come off the trailer. The engine lost the lower unit and suffered a good deal of cosmetic damage. Does your policy cover you for this type of loss over-the-road?

There is a relatively new 23' I/O in my dealer's yard which was overturned and badly beaten up in the severe storm of December 6, 1981. The owner is in a dilemma. He was uninsured and cannot afford the repairs necessary to restore the boat and what he would realize for the rig in its present condition is not even a fraction of its worth before the incident. The $400 he may have saved by not insuring is a mere pittance when compared to the cost of repairs. If your boat is financed, the preceding is academic because the lending institution will insist you have coverage, at least to your degree of indebtedness.

So you need insurance! How much and where do you purchase it? Most of us have some form of insurance coverage on our homes, autos and personal property and will usually see this same agent for our marine coverage. If you are fortunate, he may

be a boat owner himself and very knowledgeable in this line of insurance, whereas many agencies just carry such lines for their boating clients' convenience.

My agent owns a boat and writes a lot of M.I. which gives him considerable leverage with the companies he represents. One of the reasons agencies change companies from time to time has to do with the incidence of losses. Insurance companies are in business to show a profit and few will continue to carry those which have a poor loss record.

Last year due to a number of serious losses, my agency was informed by the company which he had placed me with, that they were going to withdraw their coverage. (We were not involved in any losses nor were the majority of the policyholders, but most firms will usually cancel the entire portfolio rather than try to sort out those which appear to be good risks.) He then had to place this group of policies with another insurer. This firm wanted to know all about their new risks and in their review they came to my hull, which is not listed in the Buc book (similar to the auto blue book) and asked for a survey at my expense.

I welcomed a survey; however, my premiums were high enough and I refused to pay for one. Using his influence and knowledge my agent convinced the underwriter to call my dealer (who was repowering our rig at the time) and from his conversation with this marine specialist the underwriter was convinced our property was worthy of the insured value.

Marine policies normally consist of hull and liability insurance. The hull insurance covers the boat for losses to the hull from storms, groundings and theft, while liability protects you in the event you injure someone or damage their property. Hull insurance will take up the lion's share of your premiums, while liability insurance is a very good value. At this point, you may have guessed that the amount of insurance (value) is not arbitrarily arrived at nor do you walk into your agent's office and inform him **exactly** how much insurance you want. That figure and the corresponding premium is arrived at by a formula which varies from company to company. If your boat is under 10-years-old, listed in the Buc book and not used commercially, there will be a set maximum figure for which you can insure your property. In the case of older boats, custom hulls (especially older wooden boats), the underwriter will insist on a survey which, in most instances, you will be required to pay all or the major portion of. If the surveyor finds the boat in acceptable condition, but in need of certain structural or safety changes, these will have to be effected before they accept your risk.

At any rate, insurance companies will only insure boats for their **Market Value** and not their replacement cost. The glass hull you shelled out $4,000 for in 1975 now sells for around $8,000-$9,000. With escalating fuel prices and the spectre of fuel being unavailable for recreational fishermen and boatmen, many a hull has been scuttled or "stolen" to allow unscrupulous owners to collect on their policies. My underwriter friends refer to this as the "Great Moral Hazard." I would be remiss not to make a very important point here. **Insurance is not an investment.** You are purchasing protection and peace of mind. The mentality (perhaps better stated as lack of morality) that rationalizes "I have paid my premiums for the last five years without a loss and it's time to get some of my money back" is just one reason for escalating premiums and the insurance industry's reluctance to accept risks without checking them out very thoroughly.

Although I have been involved in numerous investigations of questionable losses in the N.Y. and N.E. area over the last dozen years, one case stands out above all the rest. A few years ago an insurance company who hires my services asked me to check out the case of a boat being burned at her mooring. The insured had just added $2500 in valuation to his boat two months before the incident and the company, which also insured his business property, had paid a sizable loss to him for a fire on a building he owned, less than a year ago. Before I

(Continued on next page.)

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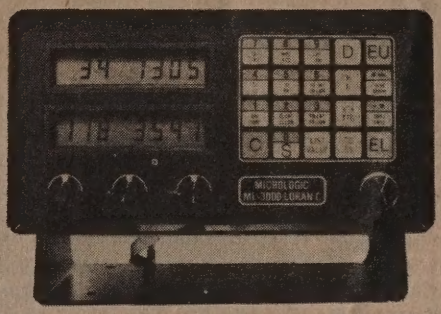

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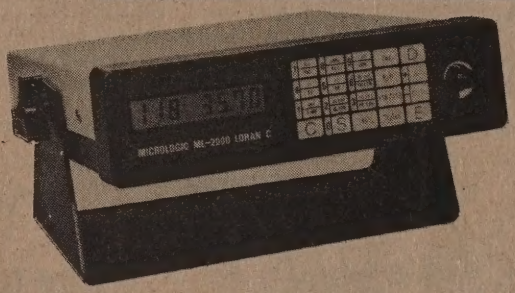

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spoke with this fellow, I did some leg work and spoke with the captain of the fire department arson squad, who had quite a book on this fellow. On the night of the building fire, witnesses observed the insured and his brother removing valuable equipment from the premises hours before the fire. I then spoke with a night watchman of a mill complex, who reported the boat fire. From his vantage point in the mill nearby the basin, he told of seeing a man row out to the boat, then leave a short time later. The hull went up in flames a short time later and the watchman reported the subject rowed the dinghy to shore at the exact place the insured stored his tender. Further inquiries revealed the boat had a sick engine and had been offered for sale since the spring of the year. There had been no takers.

The insured declined to speak with me and threatened to get a lawyer. Both the Captain and the D.A. felt we had a lot of circumstantial evidence, but not enough for an indictment. In view of this my client refused to pay the claim unless the insured cooperated and welcomed the court action, which never materialized. It appears the insured reluctantly took the loss rather than risk the possibility of a conviction. The claim was never paid. I do not suggest this is a common occurrence, but it is far from extraordinary.

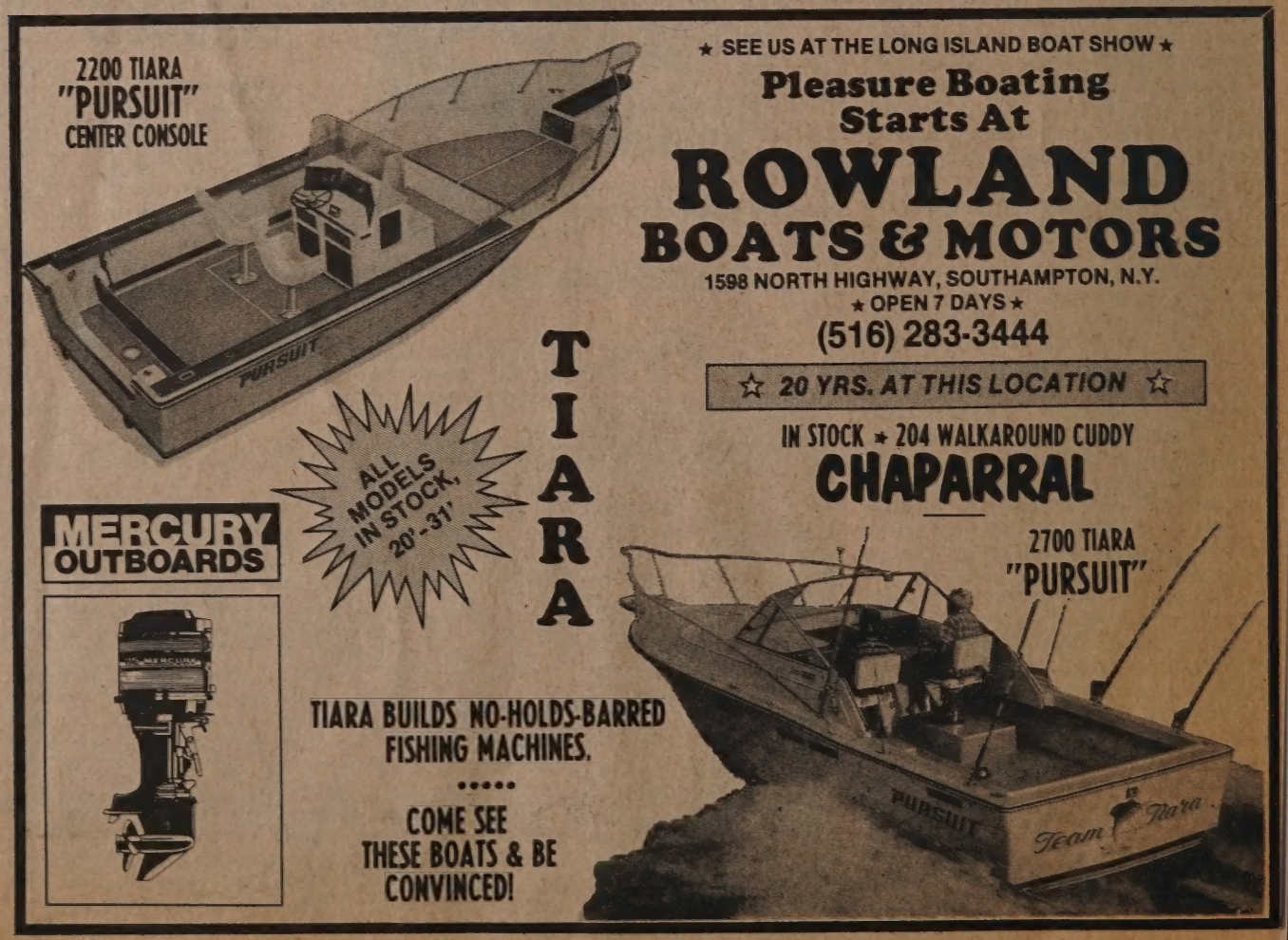
In the unfortunate event of a loss, be prepared to cooperate and present all the facts. Don't give the underwriter any reason to question the validity of your claim. Most marine policies will pay for losses for unintentional groundings, hitting submerged objects, theft and storm damage. There is a fine line between negligence and gross negligence. We can only suggest you do your utmost to protect your property and secure your boat, and you will not find yourself in a sticky situation.

A word to the wise is sufficient. **Remember:** an insurance policy is a binding contract. When signed it gives the insurance company certain legal rights. Don't misrepresent your property or its uses. Make sure all the information on the application is accurate to the best of your knowledge before endorsing the contract. Over the years, companies I have worked for have consistently paid all legitimate claims and in my estimation, many which were quite suspect. Why take any chances at all.

Make sure of exactly what you have and what you are covered for. Ask questions of your agent. That is part of how he earns his commission. He is not doing you a favor by selling you insurance. It's a business transaction. How much of a deductible will help you reduce your premium? How much liability insurance should you have to protect your other assets? Are your electronics considered a fixed part of the hull or personal property such as your fishing gear which is normally covered to a limited degree by your homeowner's insurance?

I personally hope I never have to collect on another loss. We are not only talking about monetary losses (you will usually collect less than you could hope to replace your property for), but the intangible and priceless commodity of lost time from an already short fishing and boating season.

While you are not locked into doing business with your agent for M.I., and can go to a specialist, it's a fact of doing business that agencies expect your other insurance business along with marine insurance. It could pay to shop around for a lower rate, as company philosophy differs from area to area and you might save some money. In the event you should suffer a loss and more unfortunately have a serious disagreement with your insurer, don't rush to hire a lawyer, until you check with your State Insurance Commissioner. These people are here to serve you and it has been my experience to find them to be most responsive to policyholders and take their views into consideration when reviewing such situations. They also have a book on insurance companies in the state. Any record of any similar problems others may have encountered will be in them. Some time before your policy anniversary date, get together with your agent and discuss your coverage. It might just be very beneficial to both of you.

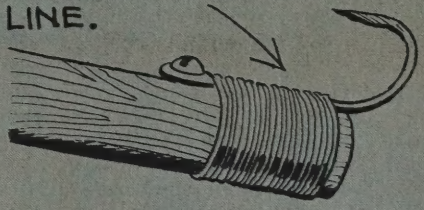


ICE FISHING TIPS

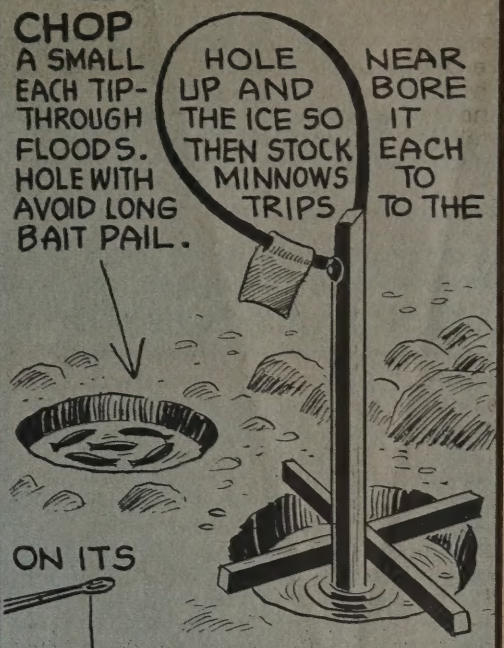
BY FRED GUARDINEER

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT BE LUCKY AND HAVE TROUBLE WITH A BIG PIKE OR WALL-EYE... *A GAFF... ANY KIND...* ESPECIALLY A SMALL ONE, IS A BIG HELP.

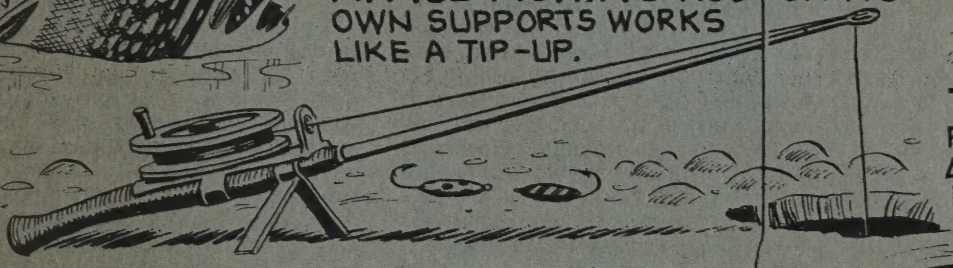
MAKE A GAFF FROM A 4/0 OR 6/0 DEBARBED HOOK. SCREW THROUGH THE EYE TO A FOOT LONG STICK. BIND HOOK FIRMLY TO SHAFT WITH STRONG LINE.



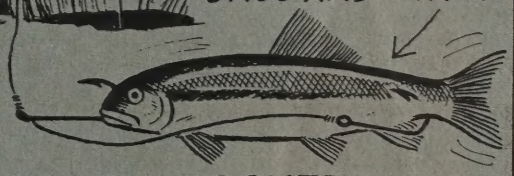
CHOP A SMALL HOLE NEAR EACH TIP-UP AND THROUGH THE ICE SO BORE IT FLOODS. THEN STOCK EACH HOLE WITH MINNOWS TO AVOID LONG TRIPS TO THE BAIT PAIL.



AN ICE FISHING ROD ON ITS OWN SUPPORTS WORKS LIKE A TIP-UP.



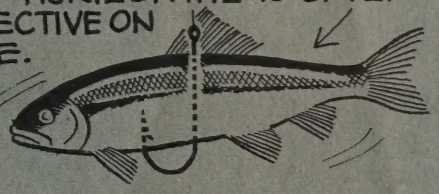
TWO-HOOK ICE FISHING RIG WITH *LIVE MINNOW FOR* BASS AND PIKE.



BEND IN WIRE — STIFF MATERIAL TO CATCH BREEZE AND JIGGLE WIRE — SPRING WIRE — WOOD — LINE → — LINE SPOOL → — SPIKE TO HOLD RIG

A TIP-DOWN RIG, A TYPE OF REVERSE TIP-UP, DETECTS LIGHT HITS. A LIGHT STRIKE JIGS THE WIRE - A SOLID HIT MAKES THE WIRE DROP.

A SINGLE HOOKED *DEAD MINNOW RIG* THAT KEEPS THE BAIT HORIZONTAL IS OFTEN EFFECTIVE ON PIKE.



ICE FISHING AS DONE IN THE 1860'S AND PICTURED IN A CURRIER & IVES PRINT.

ICE SAFETY *(BLUE LAKE ICE)*

2 INCHES ... ONE MAN ON FOOT.
3 INCHES ... GROUP, SINGLE FILE.
7½ IN. ..... LIGHT AUTOMOBILE.
12 INCHES ... NOT TO WORRY.

THIN GREEN SAPLINGS 6-8 FT. LONG CAN BE USED FOR ICE FISHING WITH A HEAVY ENOUGH SINKER TO MAKE A U-SHAPE. SAPLING IS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH SO FISH DON'T DROP BAIT.

A SOUND CHOICE FOR WINTER

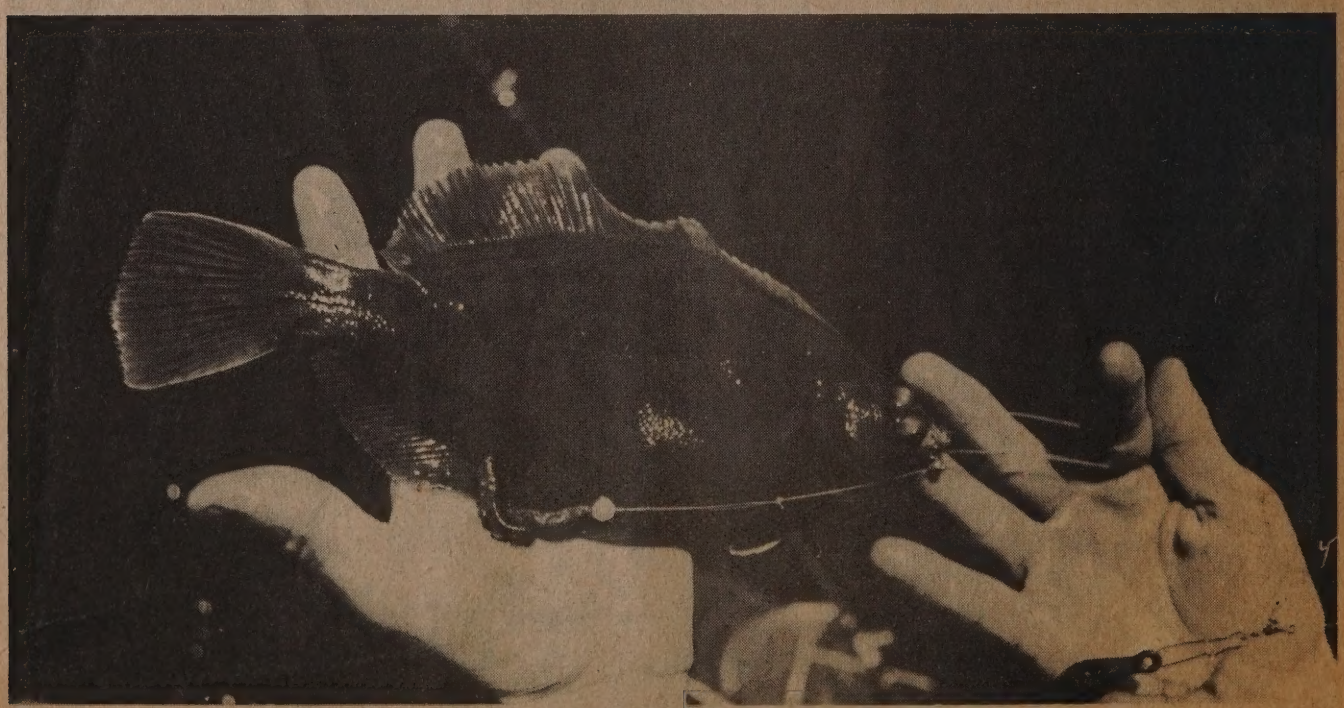
by Bill Herold

Well known as a light tackle guide in Long Island Sound, the author holds the current 12 pound class world record with a tiderunner of 17 pounds, 14 ounces.

Winter, loosely translated, falls somewhere between hibernation, anguish, and terrible. As far as this person is concerned, there is no more ugly concept in the entire scheme of natural events and "Mother Nature" surely must have endured a false pregnancy in the case of "winter." As deplorable as frigid conditions are, they remain a reality which we must grudgingly accept and try to exploit. If you fall amongst the rank and file of those who can afford to head off to less hostile climates and fish under humane conditions—by all means do it! There is no finer or more perfect cure for Winter Kill! So, as a prologue to the following, it is recommended that if you can avoid fishing as described herein by heading south, make tracks and don't look back! In the case of fishermen who can't vacate the area and have access to North Shore harbors and coves, there are reprieves of sorts. No banner events mind you—yet fish in the boat more often than not.

Focusing on the sector of Long Island between Crab Meadow Beach and Oak Neck Point, one can expect to encounter striped bass, flounder, white perch, tom cod, sand dabs, and at times, select exotics this winter. Flounder and tom cod dot the entire region, while most of the others cruise the confines of LILCO's hot water flow in Northport which harbors fish under the coldest of circumstances. From mid-December to late February the intrepid angler must initially realize that most days are not fishable, especially by boat. Indeed, fish could be caught, but the end result doesn't justify the coupled risk and discomfort. So you pick your days and be grateful for the harvest no matter how slim. Fish will come in spurts with few, if any, flurries of activity. If you are aware of any areas of flurried (not snow) winter action, please get some copy off to the editor and enlighten the rest of us!

Flounders can be had on a hit-and-miss basis throughout the range. Focus on all the harbors: Lloyds, Northport, Cold Spring, and Oyster Bay. Give special attention to Oyster Bay as numerous scores have been made here; and it always provides great action during the spring season as evidenced by the saturation of party boats come March. This winter flat fishin' is generally a deeper water shot than during the regular season with depths of 20' to 50' most common. Techniques are mostly the same as the regular campaign with a couple of twists here and there. First of all, don't drift fish. Anchor up and moderately chum with mussels, clams, cat food, or what have you. Don't overdo it; just a steady dribble of stuff will do. A heavy chum pot is excellent as the flats will usually nudge right up to it. Fish near and down tide of your pot. Repeated lifting and bouncing your rigs is taboo, as these flounders are in slow motion, due to the cold water temperature. They are not about to scurry after a moving bait, but rather sulk on the bottom and ingest only the most convenient of offerings. Keep the sinker weights heavy enough to really anchor the baits to the bottom so as to avoid the jumping up and down of the business ends. Use two outfits per angler and check each setup about every thirty seconds or so with a painfully slow lift of one or two



Typical winter flounder. Note small Aberdeen hooks and simulated corn.

feet. Lift anchor every forty-five minutes and change locale until you stumble on some fish. Bites are of the non-agressive type with most flounder only being evident when the rod is lifted for inspection. Any truly perceptible hits will usually result from a curious tom cod. They will bang the bait, and any hesitation will result in lost fish. Commonly a school fish, tom cod are a welcome find as the action is most always constant. Let's face the reality that any action at all during mid-winter is welcome; and those who balk at the thought of flounder and tommie cod as being beneath their piscatorial dignity should hastily flip the page in quest of more glamourous topics.

Keep the rigging for winter fishing most light and simple. Use conventional gear with 12 lb. test as a starting off point. Two hooks per rod are sufficient; and colored weights, beads, and simulated corn are all religiously employed by certain factions. Baits are either sea worms, clams, or mussels. Usually their availability at this time of year dictates which enticement each fisherman uses.

The hot water flow from LILCO's generation plant at Northport deserves special mention during any discourse on winter fishing in this sector of Long Island. First off, you won't be alone here, as many fishermen are well aware of what goes on around this spot—both boat and shore jockeys alike. Success is common, which accounts for the rarity of mid-winter crowding. The area to fish here is relatively small, so consideration and adaptabilty are the rule of thumb. One can expect almost anything in the plant's outflow. School bass are caught sporadically all winter long with flounder, occasional snapper bluefish, inconsistent showings of white perch, and the always cooperative appearance of sand dabs (i.e., windowpanes). Lilco at Northport has prompted many pieces of interest which have appeared over the years in this tabloid, so we will hit on it only in the context of this blurb. Most of the guys and gals on location here will have earmarked the striped bass as their primary target; yet the flounder can be a more consistent adversary. Drop anchor and set up as usual away from a point of interfering with those already on station. Start your chum line and get your baits to the bottom. Then you can begin casting around for the resident bass and what have you. Many times a mixed bag will be the reward of well-planned efforts. Use 8 lb. test spinning outfits to cast bucktails, small Rebels, Rapalas and rubber grub type jigs for the bass here. Specially, 1/4 oz. twister tails and shad type jigs will provide a respectable yield. On a separate rod you may choose to drift a live seaworm or killie back in the current with a clear float some three feet above a small split shot and the bait.

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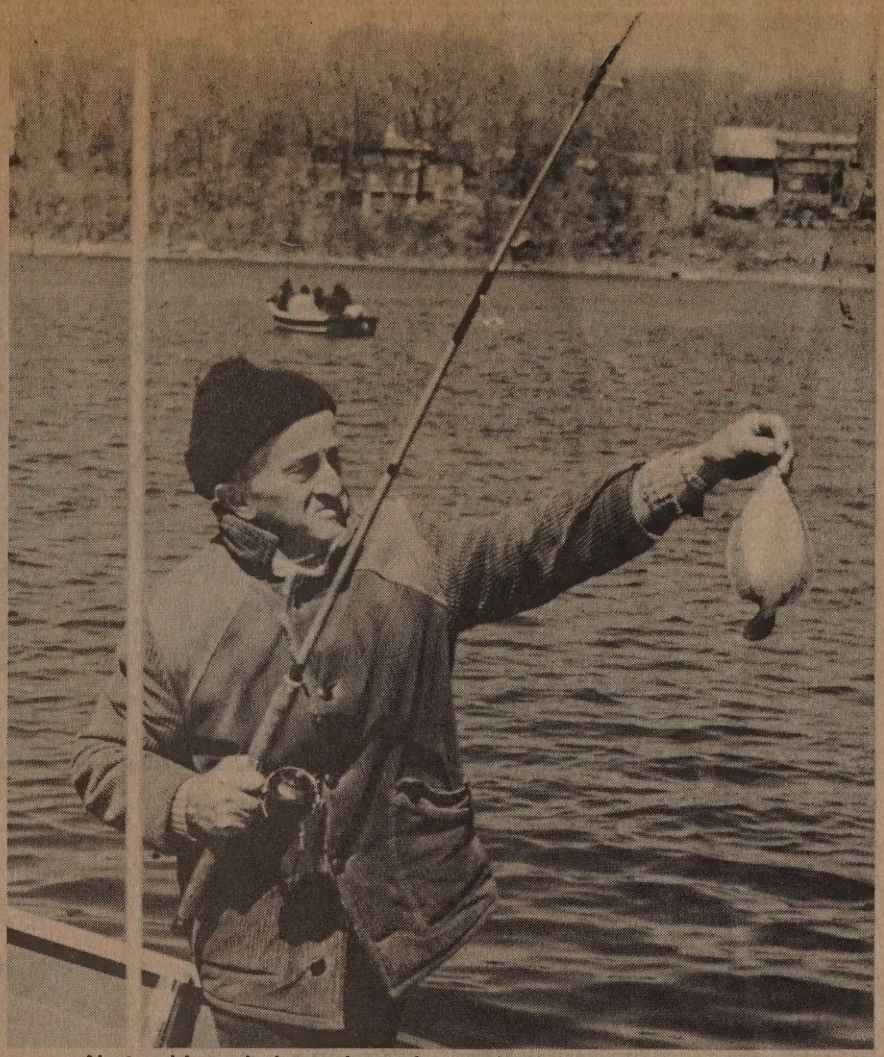
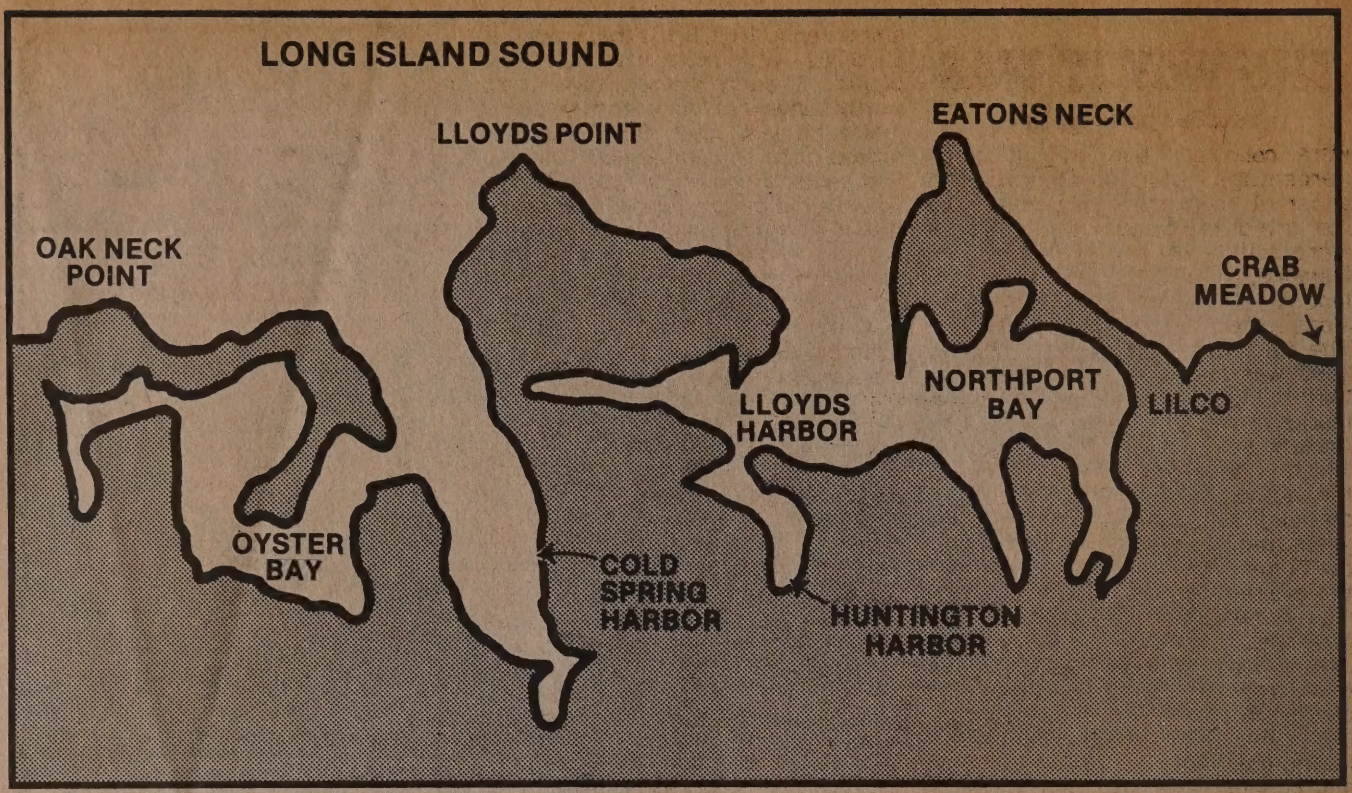


No trophies mind you; but a far cry from the drudgery of TV.

Average white perch taken on small jig during mid-winter snowstorm.



It has been successful before and will be many times again; as will all these basic methods.

One reliable advantage of angling here is the shallow water and light-colored bottom patches which afford great visibility. Occasionally a school of bass will be eyed (not necessarily caught) along with hordes of sand eels, crabs, and other bottom creatures. All lend to the aesthetic success of a winter fishing sortie, which more often than not is all the success there is. Merely the sighting of fish and their environmental neighbors can do wonders in cracking the hard shell of "Winter!"

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THE WAY IT WAS

(Continued from page 33.)

were collected, but only a small percentage hatched. Despite the apparent reduction in catch around the turn of the century, the numbers were still pretty impressive. For instance, in 1900, the mackerel catch landed at Boston and Gloucester alone amounted to 24,854,794 lbs. The total U.S. commercial catch in 1980 was less than one-quarter of that; but it should be understood that mackerel were a staple eating fish (mostly salted) in 1900—something which is no longer the case. Indeed, the authors noted that "'the local mackerel has so fallen off in recent years that the catch does not supply the home demand, and large quantities are received, both fresh and salt, from Norway, Ireland, and the British provinces."

It was not only with the bluefish that Jordan and Evermann went a bit overboard. They also contributed to the myths about the barracuda by noting that "it is as fierce as a shark and is sometimes very dangerous to bathers." Any diver who has faced these fish knows that they'll invariably back off if you approach them—and will turn tail and run if you make any threatening gestures. It's hard to pin down any authentic incidents of 'cuda attacks on man, even in areas where they are as common in shallow waters as sunfish in a pond. There's certainly no reason to compare them in ferocity to a shark.

The flounders weren't ignored by Jordan and Evermann. The largest summer flounder or plaice (fluke) they had record of weighed 26 lbs. They noted that "great numbers are sometimes caught in seines along shore, although favorite fishing grounds are on sandy bottom, in 15 to 20 **fathoms** about Block Island, Martha's Vineyard, and the eastern end of Long Island." Note the emphasis I placed on the word fathoms. How many rod and reel fishermen are trying for fluke these days on the 'favored fishing grounds' in 90' to 120' of water?

The winter flounder was noted as being the most important flatfish of the Atlantic Coast next to the halibut. Surprisingly, the United States Fish Commission was also hard at work trying to propagate this abundant species. Over 87,000,000 fry were hatched at Woods Hole in 1900 and planted at various points along the New England Coast.

Though probably also in decline at that point, the halibut was still of great importance in New England. Jordan and Evermann note that it is a fish of the coldest waters, but has been taken as far south as Montauk Point. Though they note that "the halibut ranks among the most valued food fishes of the world," the 1898 catch at Gloucester and Boston amounted to 10,378,181 lbs. valued at $576,382—little more than a nickel a pound. Though striped bass were worth somewhat more and mackerel just a bit less, that nickel a pound looked good in comparison to about two cents a pound for cod! So few Atlantic halibut are landed these days that it's hard to get a price for them, but the wholesale price for western halibut (dressed) in New York during early 1980 was $2.60 per pound.

At that very time the Pacific halibut fishery was rapidly expanding (with the price at about three cents per pound) and the shipment of fresh halibut to the East Coast was becoming routine. As the authors were writing they noticed in the daily paper an account of the "Halibut Express," a fish-train from Vancouver to Boston consisting of nine cars of fresh halibut, one of Puget Sound salmon, and one of Squallish Valley hops. The Halibut Express made the cross-country trip in just four days.

As to halibut size in those days, Jordan and Evermann quote one captain as saying he's never seen them over 250 lbs.; but a Captain Atwood had two taken near Race Point which scaled 359 and 401 lbs. Dr. Goode had records of 10 or 12 from New England weighing 300 to 400 lbs., and "Nilsson records one from the coast of Sweden that weighed 720 lbs."

Just as with the bluefish, Jordan and Evermann note that the weakfish had varied greatly in abundance during the previous hundred years. However, they also state that it "is always one of commonest and best-known fishes"—giving no indication that there was ever such an almost complete disappearance as occurred during the 1960s. They make note of a catch of over 200,000 lbs. in one day in 1881 two miles off Rockaway Beach. The authors list its maximum weight as 30 lbs., though they concede that specimens over 10 or 12 lbs. are rare. They seem to be particularly fond of the weakfish, stating that "no saltwater fish of our Atlantic Coast affords more sport to the angler than this species. It is only the great freedom with which it takes the bait and the large numbers which may be caught that cause it to fail of the highest appreciation."

Jordan and Evermann also talk about the fishing methods for various species. In the case of weakfish, they tell us that "great numbers of weakfish are taken with the hand-line by what is called 'drifting'; that is, to sail into a school of them in a mid-tide, and, letting the sheet go, allow the boat to drift while you fish over the sides at half-depth." I suppose it would be nice to find schools of that sort on a regular basis. It happened to me just once this year!

Finally, Jordan and Evermann warn us about the bluefish again: "This fish (the weakfish) is one of the principal species upon which the

(Continued on next page.)

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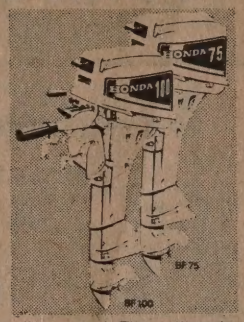

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bluefish feeds, and marvelously great numbers are doubtless destroyed every year by that rapacious fish." Wouldn't the authors be surprised to know that the weakfish made a great comeback from seeming oblivion during a period of peak bluefish abundance!

With the bluefin tuna stocks in poor shape, and scientists warning that we must restrict fishing effort drastically in order to bring the species back, it's interesting to reflect on the relatively recent nature of the fisheries for the greatest of game fish. You don't have to be very old to remember when there was virtually no commercial fishery for bluefin tuna along this coast. The Atlantic coast purse seiners didn't start fishing bluefins until the late 50s, with the West Coast seiners following along in the 60s. However, sport fishing started long before that.

At the time of Jordan and Evermann, the bluefin tuna was listed as the only species under the title "The Great Tunnies." No distinction was made at that time between the bluefin tuna of northern oceans and the southern bluefin tuna (Thunnus maccoyii) of southern oceans. As far as Jordan and Evermann were concerned, there was only Thunnus thynnus—the "tuna" of the Mediterranean and California, the "tunny" of the English, and the "tunny," "horse mackerel," or "great albacore" of the Atlantic Coast. The authors didn't seem to be aware that a similar bluefin was to be found in the South Atlantic and South Pacific.

At the time there was no sport fishery for giant tuna on the East Coast (primarily because no one had tackle capable of handling them), but the smaller bluefins of the West Coast had been caught on rod and reel. As the authors note, "On our Atlantic Coast this fish, there called the horse mackerel, has never attained any reputation as a game fish, but on the coast of southern California it is one of the monsters much sought by the daring anglers who frequent the famous Santa Catalina resort." As to size, Jordan and Evermann noted that they were very abundant for so large a fish, citing the harpooning of 30 during one season by a single fisherman "which weighed in the aggregate at least 30,000 lbs." Needless to say, that's an **average** of about 1,000 lbs. apiece!

The authors noted that tuna have been recorded to a length of ten or more feet and a weight of 1,500 lbs.; but go on to cite an individual of 15' taken off Cape Ann in 1838 which weighed 1,000 lbs. Actually, a tuna of 15' would probably weigh a great deal more. It was further recorded that the tuna of Europe were much smaller ("a 500 lb. fish there being considered a monster"), while the largest recorded at Santa Catalina weighed but 251 lbs.

Though the only sport fishing for tuna occurred off the California coast, Jordan and Evermann were aware of

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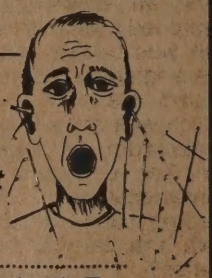

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a fishery in the Gulf of St. Lawrence where giants were taken "by means of steel hooks tied to solid lines and baited with herring." They went on to state that "The fishing is quite exciting, although tiresome and requiring a good deal of skill, as in the efforts of the fish to escape they pull with such violence as to endanger the lives of fishermen by dragging them overboard."

As to the California fishery, Jordan and Evermann supply some quotes from the great pioneer of that sport, Professor Charles F. Holder. Remember that in those days the tackle was quite primitive—and there were no such modern advantages as drags on the reels or harnesses with which to fight the fish. Holder used a "7' or 8½' greenhart or split bamboo rod with an Edward von Hoff reel equipped with leather pad. As a flying fish was trolled (apparently by oar), the angler sat in the chair with his thumb resting on the leather pad which was his only drag."

According to Holder (writing about the fish of his area), "The most sensational fish of these waters is the leaping tuna, which well compares with the tarpon, and personally I prefer it to its Florida and Texas rival, and in my experience, the average large tuna is a match for two tarpons of the same size. The tuna is the tiger of the California seas, a living meteor which strikes like a whirlwind, and when played with a rod that is not a billiard cue or a club in stiffness will give the average man the contest of his life."

Under the circumstances, even the relatively small West Coast giants fought memorable battles. Holder, who once held the record at 183 lbs., tells of an angler battling a 125 pounder for five hours before giving up—at which time the boat had been towed 20 miles. Then the boatman fought the tuna for another two hours while Holder rowed. By then the seas were getting very large and the mainland was ten miles off, so "we surrendered, and the noble fish was ignominiously hauled in by hand, and at the gaffing nearly swamped the boat, being as full of vigor and fight as when it was hooked hours before." Holder's 183 lber. fought him for four hours, towing the boat against the oars of his boatman for 10 miles—and making a last run of four miles.

At the turn of the century, there were about 40 anglers who had received the blue button of the Catalina Tuna Club for having caught a tuna over 100 lbs. Unfortunately, as small as those bluefins may seem now, it's very unlikely that anyone could duplicate that feat off Catalina in this day and age. The bluefin tuna of California were long ago fished out, and only small numbers of schoolies are caught during a typical season.

Jordan and Evermann were well aware of the albacore, but not too knowledgeable about its distribution. They stated that it is "rarely seen on

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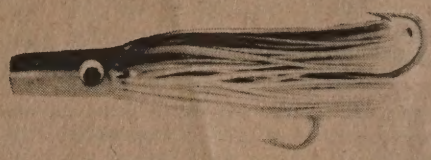

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our Atlantic Coast'' and on the Pacific extends as far north as San Francisco. Of course, just a few years ago there would have been many on the East Coast who would have agreed with the authors that albacore are unusual in these waters. However, since the canyons have been opened up to sport fishing, we've found that albacore are actually quite abundant off our coast. Furthermore, we now also know that albacore migrate much further north along the Pacific Coast. During late summer they're often most abundant off the coast of British Columbia—a fact which led to arrests of American fishermen a couple of years ago by the Canadian authorities.

Jordan and Evermann were also far off in terms of albacore size. They said it reaches a weight of 15 or 20 lbs. It's true that albacore found on our side of the Pacific aren't too large, but 20-30 lbers. are quite common. Those found in the Atlantic are much bigger, frequently exceeding 60 lbs. However, the most surprising aspect of the authors' description of albacore was their claim that ''As a food fish, it is of little value, its flesh being coarse and oily, far inferior to that of tuna.'' Of course, albacore is the ''light meat tuna'' which brings a premium price in the supermarkets.

Jordan and Evermann were also familiar with our Atlantic bonito, but rated it as a poor food fish. Today the bonito (which isn't bloody like the tunas) is generally regarded as a fine food fish—though it does get soft rather quickly.

The Spanish mackerel is one of the most popular food and game fishes in the south, but Jordan and Evermann note that it was scarcely known in the early history of our country and only assumed commercial importance in the 1870s. Yet, even by 1897 the commercial catch was only 1,183,456 lbs. valued at $69,778. Spanish mackerel seem to be somewhat depleted now, but the 1980 commercial catch was still 11,968,000 lbs. valued at $3,137,000. The recreational catch in 1979 was estimated at 2,209,000 individuals weighing almost three million pounds. Unfortunately, the IGFA still doesn't maintain records for this small, but very fast game fish. Large specimens are quite unusual, and there is often confusion involved with the similarly-shaped and larger cero mackerel. I once trolled a 12 lber. off Trinidad, and that was far larger than any of the hundreds of other Spanish mackerel I've caught over the years. However, Jordan and Evermann actually saw a 25 lber. taken off Chesapeake Bay (where any Spanish mackerel catch is now unusual) in October, 1901.

While most of the scientific information contained in this remarkable book is still accurate today, there are some problems with common names, at least as we know them today. The cero mackerel is referred to as sierra, pintago, or ''kingfish''; while the king mackerel (usually called kingfish) is listed as kingfish; ''cero''; or cavalla. That wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't for the fact that they use ''cero'' as the common name for the king mackerel throughout their discussion.

In order to avoid further confusion I'll proceed with details about the king mackerel using the present common name of kingfish. Jordan and Evermann noted that it is one of the great food and game fishes (''At Key West it is, next to the grunt, the most important food fish'') and often found in immense numbers. It's listed as growing to five feet and 100 lbs., though the biggest authentic record they could find was of a king from Key West that dressed out at 52 lbs. Even at that time, the authors were aware that the largest kings are usually found closer to shore (where the water is less clear), while the smaller ones are found offshore along the edge of the Gulf Stream where the water is clear.

Jordan and Evermann recommend the use of a stout braided line for trolling kingfish, along with ''a cod hook with long shank, and a foot or two of stout copper or brass wire to withstand the numerous sharp teeth...'' For bait they specified a piece of white bacon rind ''5'' to 8'' long, cut to resemble a fish, with a slit in the upper end and one in the middle through which it is placed on the hook, the upper end being secured by a fine wire.'' A block tin

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squid or very heavy spinner is recommended for a lure, but they note that "in lieu of anything better the hook may be wrapped with white muslin, tin foil, or anything that the fish can easily see..."

Apparently their information about the fighting qualities of the king mackerel were obtained second-hand—or else there's been a great change in that species over the years. According to Jordan and Evermann, "As a fighter the cero (actually kingfish: Editor) is chiefly famous on account of the marvellous leaps which he makes." They go on to talk about ten-foot leaps, all of which is true—except that kingfish only seem to do that when pouncing on a bait. I've yet to see one leap when hooked, and though I understand that it does happen occasionally it's probably as unusual as a striped bass jump.

The wahoo wasn't exactly unknown at the turn of the century, but there certainly wasn't much known about him. Jordan and Evermann list him as peto, giving wahoo and guarapucu as other names. Furthermore, they claim that he reaches our waters only in the West Indies and Florida Keys. Today we know that the wahoo ranges all along our coast in deep waters as far as the Gulf Stream will carry him. It's also a very common fish in the Bahamas. The authors knew it as an excellent food fish and were aware that it could be taken by trolling, but admitted to knowing nothing regarding its game qualities.

Not too much was known about the billfishes at the time, though the swordfish was commercially important—3,000 to 6,000 being harpooned off the New England coast every year—"Twenty-five or more are sometimes seen in a single day." The other billfish are listed under "The Sailfishes." Apparently, sailfishing as a sport hadn't been developed as yet. Jordan and Evermann note that sailfish are abundant in the Florida Keys, but mention nothing about fishing for them. Surprisingly, they do state that it "is an excellent food fish." Two other "sailfishes" are listed. Though the scientific names have changed, one must be the white marlin (which they call spearfish), while the other ("a rare fish occurring in the West Indies") was described as an important food fish in Cuba which grows to 800 lbs.—undoubtedly the blue marlin.

However, Jordan and Evermann's unfamiliarity with the white marlin didn't prevent them from fantasizing about a fish which they listed as growing to only about 150 lbs. Noting that the "spearfish" is sometimes taken on the hook they say that "it rises to the surface where it makes prodigious leaps and plunges. At last it is dragged to the boat, secured with a boat hook, and beaten to death before it is hauled on board. Such fishing is not without danger, for the spearfish sometimes rushes upon the boat, drowning the fisherman, or wounding him with its terrible weapon. The fish becomes furious at the appearance of sharks, which are its natural enemies. They engage in violent combats, and when the spearfish is attached to the fisherman's line, it often receives frightful wounds from these adversaries."

We've learned a great deal about the fishes present off our coast since the time of Jordan and Evermann, but it's still amazing to consider what these great gentlemen were able to discover about the mysterious world of the sea some eight decades ago!

Now let's take a look at what Jordan and Evermann's "American Food & Game Fishes" has to say about the freshwater fishing. It's quite obvious, right from the beginning of the book, that Jordan and Evermann are primarily freshwater anglers whose quest for scientific knowledge has led them to the seas. Two preliminary chapters focus on "American Bait Minnows" and "Fishing with the Fly." Indeed, it appears that commercial fishing in smaller bodies of freshwater had already been ended and a freshwater sport fishing ethic developed.

At the end of the chapter on bait minnows, the authors had this to say: "Perhaps the thorough-going angler will be disposed to scorn all live bait and use only the artificial fly. And in

(Continued on next page.)

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this he is quite right, for to catch many fish is no longer the desire of the true angler. Only those unworthy of the name and whom we no longer respect are disposed to make large catches. Anglers now go a-angling with light tackle and give the fish a chance. They will not catch many fish; the size of the basket is not their aim. They will never take more fish than they can properly use. But they will enjoy fishing only the more on that account. They will get away from offices, counting-rooms, school books, parlours and five o'clock teas, out into the open of existence where life is real and where worry and strain and sham are not; where there are green banks and leafy, fragrant woods, singing birds and blue skies. These they will see and feel and enjoy and, returning home, the serious affairs of life will be taken up again with lighter heart and cleaner soul. It is not all of fishing to fish."

Not surprisingly, the authors were quite taken with the Atlantic salmon. They noted that it was at one time very abundant in the Connecticut River and probably occurred in the Housatonic and Hudson. The most southerly occurrence was in the Delaware. In Colonial days "the epicurean apprentices of Connecticut would eat salmon no oftener than twice a week." They also state that "Many Connecticut people remember hearing their grandfathers say that when they went to the river to buy shad the fishermen used to stipulate that they should also buy a specified number of salmon."

By the early 1800s the salmon had diminished greatly, with the primary supply coming from the Kennebec in Maine. The cause of their disappearance was the construction in 1798 of a dam 16' high at Millers River, 100 miles from the mouth of the Connecticut. "For two or three years fish were seen in great abundance below the dam, and for perhaps ten years they continued to appear, vainly striving to reach the spawning grounds; but soon the work of extermination was complete. When in 1872, a solitary salmon made its appearance, the Saybrook fishermen did not know what it was." Fortunately, this sad story may have a happy ending. With the cooperation of the power companies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, salmon enthusiasts are gradually restoring Atlantic salmon runs in the Connecticut River system.

Salmon fishing has improved considerably in Maine during the last few years, though it's still not up to the standards of even the turn of the century. Jordan and Evermann cite the 1893 angling catch in the Penobscot Pool at Bangor as being 87 fish weighing a total of 1,477½ lbs. The largest was 30 lbs. and the average nearly 17. The authors also mention that 40 lbers. had been taken from the Penobscot in years past, while Canada's Restigouche had produced a 60 lber. All of these pale when compared to an 83 lber. brought

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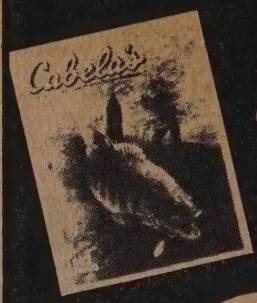

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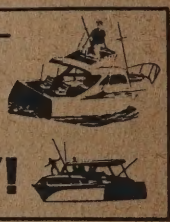

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to London in 1821.

It wasn't many years ago that the lake trout had virtually vanished from the Great Lakes—victim of the lamprey, pollution, and excessive commercial fishing. Today, the conservation departments of those states surrounding the Great Lakes have the lamprey under control, are reducing pollution, and have severely curtailed commercial fishing. Massive propagation of lake trout has resulted in some fishing for that species, though natural spawning results haven't been good and large lake trout are still unusual.

The lake trout is actually a charr, and was also known as mackinaw trout at the turn of the century. According to Jordan and Evermann, they were still quite abundant at the time, and were exceeded in commercial value in the Great Lakes only by the whitefish. The authors note that at one time lake trout were so abundant that they were worth very little. It wasn't until 1886 that the price rose (as catches declined) to equal that of the whitefish. That situation brought both the Federal and some state governments into the hatchery business. So successful were the hatcheries that in 1896 "the fishing boats ceased operations, the market being glutted, and the price obtainable not justifying the labour involved." Even in those days, there were quite sophisticated methods of harvesting this fish commercially. The principal means involved gillnets operated by steam tugs. The authors stated that "Some of these tugs carry 5 or 6 miles of nets and catch in one lift from 1,000 lbs. to 4 or 5 tons of trout."

The "classic trout" is actually a charr: the brook trout. Even at the turn of the century this fine game fish was finding it hard to survive the encroachments of man. Jordan and Evermann note that "Forty years ago brook trout weighing 4 to 6 and 8 lbs. were not uncommon. But as trout streams everywhere came to be fished more and more, the trout became smaller and smaller, until now it is a rare trout that escapes the angler's fly until he has reached a greater weight than a pound or two."

Blaming the plight of the trout on the "Lumberman, manufacturer, and summer boarder," the authors quote the late Rev. Myron W. Reed—"a noble man and an excellent angler." According to Rev. Reed, "This is the last generation of trout-fishers. The children will not be able to find any. Already there are well-trodden paths by every stream in Maine, New York, and in Michigan. I know of but one river in North America by the side of which you will find no paper collar or other evidence of civilization. It is the Nameless River. Not that trout will cease to be. They will be hatched by machinery and raised in ponds, and fattened on chopped liver, and grow flabby and lose their spots. The trout of the restaurant will not cease to be: but he is no more like the trout of the wild river than the fat and songless reed-bird is like the bobolink. Gross feeding and easy pond life enervate and deprave him. The trout that the children will know only by legend is the gold-sprinkled living arrow of the white water; able to zigzag up the cataract; able to loiter in the rapids; whose dainty meat is the glancing butterfly."

Obviously, the "good old days" of the eastern trout fishery were long before even the turn of the century. While things aren't quite as bad as the Rev. Reed predicted, it is true that little native trout fishing is still available in this part of the country—and the few "natural" trout left are usually quite small. It's also true that the hatchery fish are a different breed, many anglers considering them to be hardly worthy of the name trout. However, since that's about all we have left now, they'll have to do!

At the time the northern pike was known as common pike, Great Lakes pike, and pickerel (not to be confused with the smaller common eastern pickerel, also known as green pike). Jordan and Evermann note that it is more esteemed in Europe, Walton having recommended roasting the pike—as "when thus prepared he is 'choicely good'—too good for any but

(Continued on next page.)

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anglers and honest men." The muskellunge was also described as a good game fish, and one that reaches a length of 8' and a weight of 100 lbs. or more!

Picking up on the thoughts of Dr. James A. Henshall, author of the "Book of the Black Bass," Jordan and Evermann praise the "small-mouthed black bass" as a great game fish. Strangely, considering that it was even then a heavily-fished species, the authors thought that its maximum size was only about 5 lbs., a good, but no unusual size today. The "large-mouthed black bass" was also known as straw bass, a name which the authors found to be more appropriate. As far as they were concerned, the maximum size in the north was only 8 lbs., while Dr. Henshall had records of 12 to 14 lbers. in Florida. Getting into the gameness of the two black bass, they noted that Dr. Henshall rated them equals—but they felt that in the same water the smallmouth was "superior in all those qualities that go together to make a game fish."

Though damming had done a job on the Atlantic salmon even before the turn of the century, the shad runs were still in very good shape at that time. Jordan and Evermann pointed out that "In the early history of the country the abundance of shad excited unbounded astonishment." However, unrestrained fishing had so diminished the supply that the Federal and some state governments were forced to begin hatching shad artificially. According to the authors, the results were dramatic—with supplies restored and even improved. Jordan and Evermann were champions of the artificial propagation of food fishes, something which was far more common on a general scale then than it is now. It's true that we have lots of hatcheries turning out trout, and some freshwater warm water species as well. However, in those days they were even dealing with mackerel, cod, flounders, and shad. Indeed, the authors point to the introduction of shad to the Pacific Coast as an example of the success of the artificial propagation program. The shad was the most important river fish of the Atlantic Coast at that time and, next to the chinook salmon, the most important freshwater species. Only the cod and chinook exceeded it in value during that period. The 1896 catch numbered 13,145,395 fish weighing 50,847,967 lbs. and valued at $1,656,580.

Jordan and Evermann spend a great deal of time covering the history of the common eel—often deriding the great misconceptions of previous ages about this fish. For instance, they note that Aristotle thought that eels have no sexes and simply arise from the "entrails of the sea." Other great thinkers and biologists over the ages were equally mystified until the Italian naturalist Mondini was able to prove the existence of ovaries and eggs in the female eel. Yet, it wasn't until 1873 that the spermatic organs

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of the male were identified. Though the authors had a great deal of knowledge about the eel, they still didn't know the secret of its spawning area. With great finality, they announced that "the common eel spawns in salt water, usually off the mouths of rivers, on mudbanks, to which they go in great numbers at the spawning time, which is in the fall." They didn't even suspect that the eel actually swims all the way to the Sargasso Sea when it comes time for spawning.

Though Jordan and Evermann praise the eating qualities of the eel, they also object to the destruction of shad and herring caught in gill nets by those scavengers. So abundant were the eels of the Susquehanna that not infrequently "when a gillnet is lifted the greater part of the catch consists simply of heads and backbones, the remainder having been devoured by myriads of eels in the short time the net was left out."

Their knowledge of the Pacific salmon species was also limited. Though they knew what went on in the rivers, Jordan and Evermann also thought that the Pacific salmon lived in the ocean not very far from where they were born. They knew nothing of the great migrations made by those salmon, and that misconception led to another. The authors were of the opinion that there was no natural instinct for salmon to return to the stream they were born in. Theorizing that the salmon remained in the ocean near the river they left, Jordan and Evermann felt that they were then simply drawn back to whatever freshwater they might find in their wanderings.

Finally we come to that lowly catfish: the bullhead. Just as they do with the yellow perch, the authors praise this species as being a delicious fish which is very democratic; that is, easy to catch. As a matter of fact, they run a 2½ page quote from a Milwaukee writing objecting to hatching of whitefish (an aristocratic fish that will not bite a hook) and of brook trout—"While they will bite a hook, it requires more machinery to catch them than ordinary people can possess without mortgaging a house. A man has got to have a morocco book of expensive flies, a $15 bamboo jointed rod, a $3 trout basket, with a hole mortised in the top, a corduroy suit made in the latest style, top boots of the Wellington pattern, with red tassels in the straps, and a flask of Otard brandy in a side pocket. Unless a man is got up in that style a speckled trout will see him in Chicago first, and then it won't bite. The brook trout is even more aristocratic than the whitefish, and should not be propagated at public expense."

The Milwaukee writer then goes on to say, "But there are fish that should be propagated in the interest of the people. There is a species of fish that never looks at the clothes of the man who throws in the bait, a fish that takes whatever is thrown to it, and when once hold of the hook never tries to shake a friend, but submits to the inevitable, crosses its legs and says, 'Now I lay me', and comes out on the bank and seems to enjoy being taken. It is a fish that is a friend of the poor, and one that will sacrifice itself in the interest of humanity. That is the fish that the State should adopt as its trademark, and cultivate friendly relations with, and stand by. We allude to the bullhead."

Sport fishing around the turn of the century was very different from that which we enjoy today. In many cases, the fish we seek today may have been much more abundant, but the anglers of the time didn't have the advantages we enjoy with advanced tackle and accessories. Some 80 years ago, Jordan and Evermann had already witnessed the decline of many species and expressed the need for conservation. Nothing much has changed in that respect over the years, though I hope that the average angler is today more aware of the need to treat the resource with respect. Let's hope that lessons of the past haven't been entirely lost on our generation—and that those who follow will be wiser!

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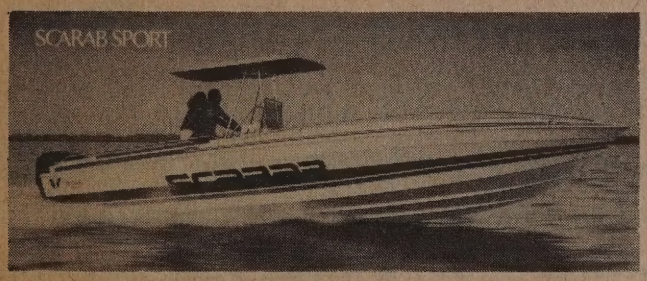

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REACHING OUT

(Continued from page 23.)

File the top of the feet so there is less slope or curvature. This will help the windings go on evenly. If the feet are thin, as with many of the ceramic guides, you may not need to file them. Start with the largest guide so that you will have an easy point of reference—some experts might start with the smallest guide. Tape one foot of the guide down with masking tape (masking tape because it will not leave dirt, smudges, and comes off easily). Line up the guide ring on the side of the blank you've previously chosen to be either the top side or the bottom. (Note: some builders make a big to-do about this. I look for bowing and try to orient the rod so that the bow will not be working against the bend the rod will have when casting or fighting a fish. Other than that, I pay little attention to what many experts say are backs and front, weak spots, etc.)

Now, wrap the opposite foot the same way your underwrappings were done. When one foot is secure, repeat the process on the other foot after removing the tape. Repeat this procedure with each guide in turn. Be sure to constantly check that the guide rings are aligned behind each other. The final check on alignment can be made before protective finish coats are placed down. The tiptop should be secured with epoxy glue. Avoid the use of ferrule cement for rods that will experience heavy use and extreme casting stress.

Finishes. Before putting on the finish, check alignment and nudge mis-aligned guides back into position. The state of the art today in finishes is epoxy flexible boats. Unlike epoxy glues of the past which were often brittle and cracked when bent, the modern rod finishes of epoxy will flex and yet provide a durable and beautiful finish. If you do not wish to work with this material you can use rod varnish, or more simply, exterior varnish. Buy the best quality you can find because you'll want the finish to last a long time.

Rollers. Wraps and finishes can be put on easily with rollers that can be either manual or motorized. An old rotisserie motor is ideal. This can be mounted on a board along with furniture wheels, etc. (again, see past issues of LIF for construction details). The use of motorized turning will be especially useful when using the epoxy finishes. Two coats are used and since it takes the epoxy awhile to set, the rod is rotated slowly until the material is well-set. I like to use about five or six thin layers of varnish when that is the finish material. Thin coats of varnish will usually not need to be rotated, but thick epoxy will tend to run down and lump at the lowest end of the wrap, thus making constant turning a necessity.

Well, we hope these basic suggestions will get you started. Remember that your local bait and tackle dealer who will sell you the construction materials will be eager to discuss construction details with you, so don't hesitate to ask. Good fishing.

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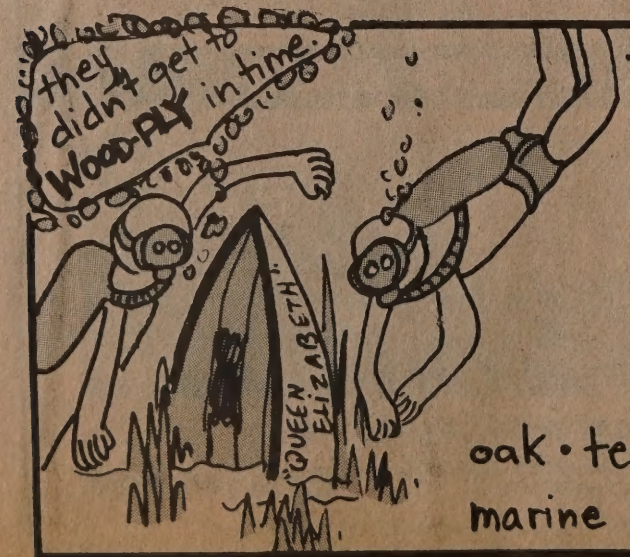

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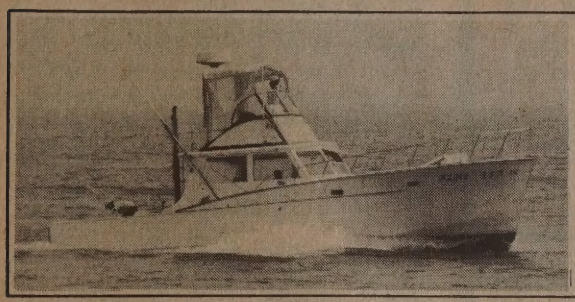

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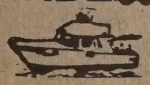

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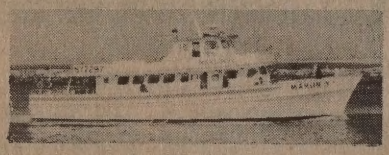

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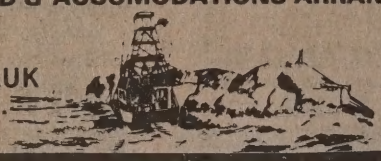

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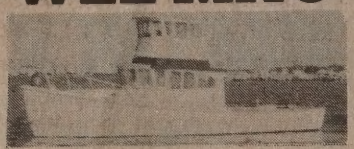

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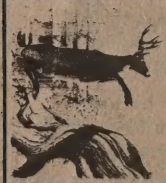

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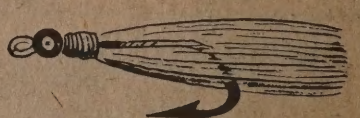
Fishing Reports

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

Captain Mike Bock, skippering the **Viking Star** this week called to report that on Wednesday, 19 fares had 10-12 fish a man in the 4-10 lb. range, fishing Cartwright on clam bait. Due to the moon tide, Saturday's action slowed down a bit, with fish running 4-10 lbs. and 33 fares averaging 8-10 cod per man. Both these days were at Cartwright. Sunday turned out to be the biggest codfish catch that we have heard of for a single day's hook and line codfishing on a party boat in several years. Fishing Block Island waters, since Cartwright was not producing that day, 43 men in just 1½ hours fishing time caught cod in the 3-5 lb. range just as though they were porgies with doubles coming up all over the boat. The body count on cod was 583 fish for the day. There were five anglers aboard who had 35-40 cod apiece.

Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin IV and V** says that both his boats have been commmercial fishing Mondays through Fridays, but the **Marlin IV** will be sailing on its regular open boat sailing schedule this Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, encompassing Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays for delicious Montauk cod.



Mr. & Mrs. O. Dowd with some big black grouper taken on a trip to the Tortugas aboard the "Viking Starship." The vessel is based at Key West for the winter season.

Steve Kearney Sr. and Jr. display cod of 41 and 42 lbs. respectively. The pair totalled 10 cod while on a January trip aboard the Captree open boat, "Capt. Bob Joseph."

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sport Center** had a super trout catch to report. Neil Sluiter of West Sayville, fishing in Bubbles Falls on the Connetquot River last Wednesday, used a live killy to take a 7 lb. 5 oz. brown trout. Neil has been doing well through most of the winter with several 3-4 lb. trout also to his credit. Dave reminded that the trout season in certain tidal rivers such as the Connetquot remains open throughout the year.

Danny Brown of The Bronx bagged this 37 lb. cod back in November while fishing aboard the Freeport open boat, "Capt. Al."

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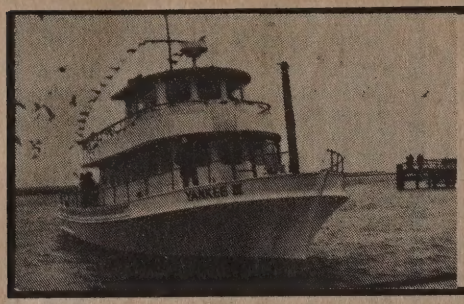

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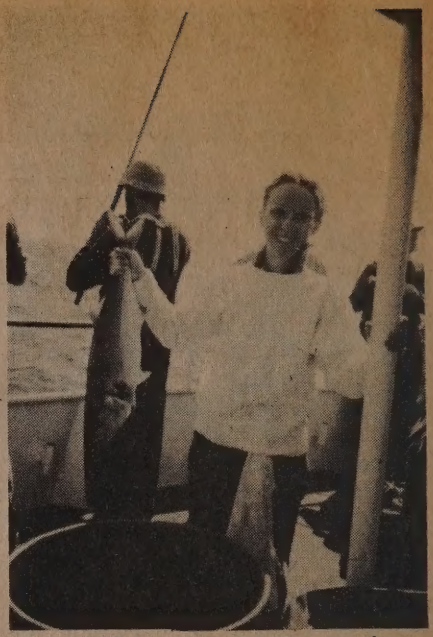

Pam Pickers shows the results of her first bluefish effort. The 8 lber. was part of a good haul made last summer aboard the Freeport open boat, "Starstream."

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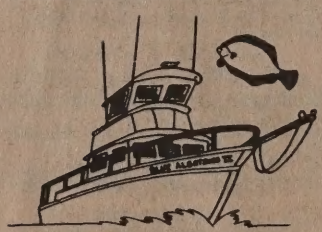

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A very happy 9-yr.-old, Chris Ronacher, hefts the 30 lb. striper he took on a trolled bucktail in the vicinity of the Throgs Neck Bridge near the end of November. Subscriber photo.

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CAPTREE

Captain Speedy Hubert of the open boat, **Speedy VI**, has been on the cod run whenever weather permits. Of this past weekend's results, the skipper labelled Saturday as decent and Sunday as slow. Good scores were made during the week on setlines with a whopper of 74 lbs. coming aboard on one of the days. Most of the fish have been in the 10-12 lb. range with fishing still being done in 100' to 110' of water south of Fire Island Inlet.

FREEPORT

Captain Billy Lindroth who is running the **Capt. Al** while his dad soaks up some Florida sun, called to tell us that on Tuesday's trip Bob Spencer of Brooklyn took the pool with a 38½ lb. cod. Bob along with fellow Brooklynite Tom DiMatteo totaled out with 22 cod including Bob's biggie. Scott Phillips of Freeport hung a 37 lber., while Joe Golden relieved the ocean of 14 cod. Another unnamed angler had 10 fish by himself. On Thursday's trip, Dave Lissaver of Brooklyn had a 30½ lber. Artie Busa of Brooklyn had a 30 lber. Bellmore angler Rudy D'Ambrogio took the pool Thursday with a 40 lber. Friday's trip to the cod grounds saw Joe Topf of Mineola with a 40 lb. cod. A 35 lber. was the reward for Barry Nathan of Forest Hills, while Stan Feret of East Meadow bounced a 31 lber. onto the deck. Nalina Nacaif of The Bronx rang the bell with a 30 lber. On Saturday's trip, Mel Goldman of Sheepshead Bay hung a 40 lber. and Lenny Wilkins of Amityville

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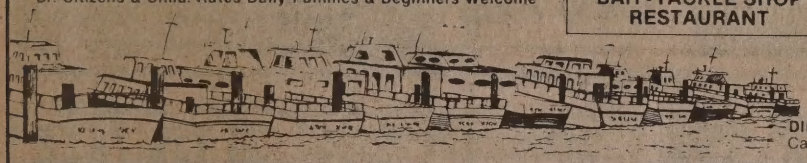

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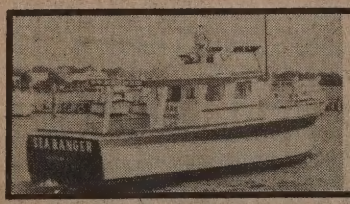

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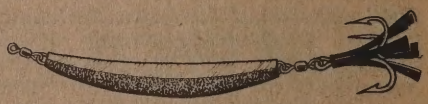

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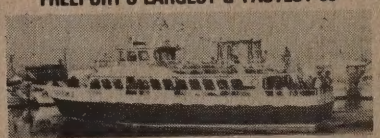

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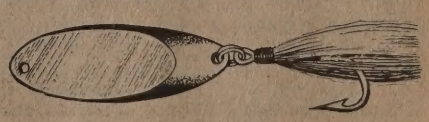

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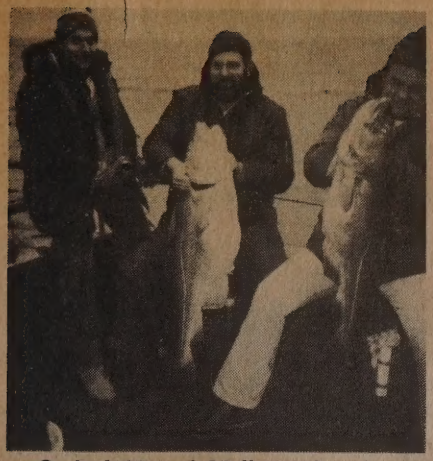
Fifteen-year-old Fisherman subscriber, Bryan Wexler, with a brace of big blues caught during an October trip out of Sheepshead Bay aboard the "Helen H."



Cod of 55 and 35 lbs. taken by Ray Mayer and Gary Stnis in 110' of water, S.E. of Jones Inlet aboard the Freeport charter boat "Marie III."

had a 30 lber. Paul Dayton of Cold Spring Harbor bagged a 34 lber. and August Mathaitis of Newark, N.J. had a 28 and a 32 lber. Sunday's trip was a lot slower due to the ripping moon tide, but nonetheless 17 men ended up with 30 fish. On Saturday, the boat came back with 8 hangers from 25-40 lbs. The general run of fish was 8-12 lbs. and this was all open bottom.

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **StarStream II** reports good fishing all week and weekend long, with the biggest fish of the week hitting 45 lbs. Fish averaged 12-15 lbs. with fishing being on wrecks and open bottom, all on bait. Regular Hernando Bento managed a 40 lber. Ernie Welch of Ozone Park totaled 5 cod on Saturday from 8-12 lbs. Larry McKall of Captain Ben's Fish Dock bagged the pool with a 25 lber.

Captain Jimmy of the **Super Spray II** called to tell of a really super weekend aboard his boat. Saturday saw Paul Stern of Merrick bag up with 9 cod to 36 lbs. Ray Seise of Brentwood had his 40 lber. take the pool and Ray had 5 other cod to boot. Harvey Minkoff and Joe Gayk of East Rutherford, NJ totaled 11 cod to 33 lbs. Woodhaven sharpie Lewis Mercieca caught 7 cod to 25 lbs. The boat totaled 80-100 for 22 men all in one drop on open bottom. On Sunday's trip, 11 cod to 30 lbs. rewarded the efforts of Ken Hesducek. Jim Bogart decked 6 cod to 25 lbs. Bob Schlerher scored with 7 cod up to 25 lbs. while Ken Okeley of Merrick took the pool with a 56 lber. The average run of fish was 5-25 lbs. Captain Jim says he will be sailing 5AM Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday this week and that on Sunday, Valentine's Day, any lady accompanied by husband or boyfriend or both sails free. (Lady sails free.)

Captain Sy Carlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** called and asked us to let you know that his season's trips are booking rapidly and that if you're after any choice dates, particularly weekends, to call soon.

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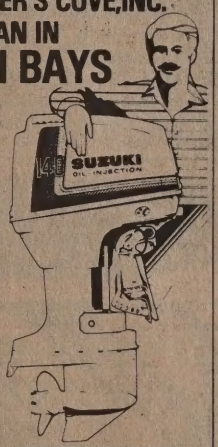

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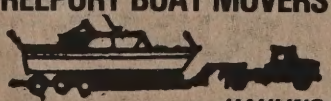

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Part of a Sumlog line that also includes two fully-electronic gauges, the Mechanical Sumlog can be used with either VDO's transom-mount or thru-hull sending unit. The transom-mount style can be lifted out of its bracket and swung out of the way during launching, and is suitable for speeds of up to 30 knots. VDO's thru-hull sending unit is designed for permanent installation and is available in 2 versions for 0-30 and 30+ knot speeds.

Drive cables for connecting the Mechanical Sumlog to its sending unit are available in 5 ft. increments from 10-35 ft. in length. VDO also offers identical gauges with miles-per-hour calibration.

From VDO Instruments, Inc., 980 Brooke Road, P.O. Box 2877, Winchester, VA 22601.

SOFTHEADS HAVE A NEW LOOK

Trying to improve a highly successful fishing lure has never been easy, but that's precisely what Moldcraft's engineering team did when they created the NEW Softhead WIDE RANGE. These dedicated researchers listened when veteran anglers asked for a universal trolling lure that would work at the slower speeds associated with natural baits and still catch fish when paired up in a high speed situation. They also heeded the pleas of beginning fishermen to develop one lure that could be dragged at any speed and through a variety of sea conditions.

The Wide Range answers these needs and it catches fish, because its flat face produces an exceptionally long air pocket with an abundance of tiny bubbles that attract game fish.

It's manufactured from the same soft plastic materials and has the same natural feel to a fish as all of the other Softheads.

Scientifically designed with a precision angled, convex head and a strategically placed, offset hole, the new Softhead SWIMMER creates an erratic swimming, darting, and weaving action as it moves through the water. The Swimmer performs best at slow and medium speeds up to 12 knots and can be daisy-chained as a teaser or used as an extremely effective lure.

The Wide Range and the Swimmer are produced in the big fish, 15-inch Senior size and the popular 10-inch Standard size. Colors include all of the favorite baitfish combinations plus a rainbow assortment of shades to match any preference.

All Softhead lures are now available with clear heads featuring prism-mirrored inserts to create an underwater flash. They are also manufactured in the traditional translucent and opaque colors that have made these lures famous on the battlegrounds of the world's oceans.

Low frequency sound has been a proven fish attractant on the offshore grounds as well as inshore. Recognizing this fact, Moldcraft's research teams has developed the Fish Rattle, an effective noisemaker that can be used with any artificial lure or natural bait.

The Fish Rattle can be positioned under the skirt on a trolling lure, ahead of the artificial, or anywhere along the leader. It's as easy to use as slipping the end of the leader through a specially engineered tube that is an integral part of the unit.

A copy of the latest catalog showing the new products as well as the time-proven classics is available by writing Moldcraft, 501 N.E. 28th St., Pompano Beach, FLA 33064.

BOONE INTRODUCES THE SWIMMING TOUT II

When Boone developed the original Grub Tail Tout, the tackle industry was introduced to an entirely new concept of a lead head jig combined with a plastic tail. The multitude of manufacturers that have followed Boone's lead has led to Boone's latest slogan, "Either it's a Boone or it's an imitation."

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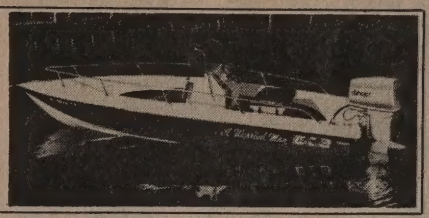

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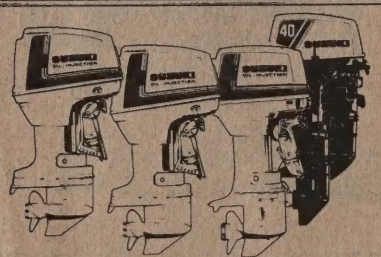

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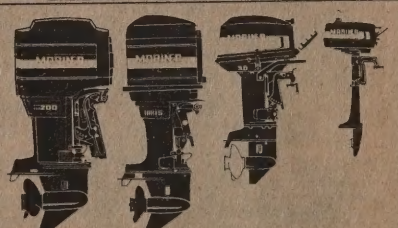

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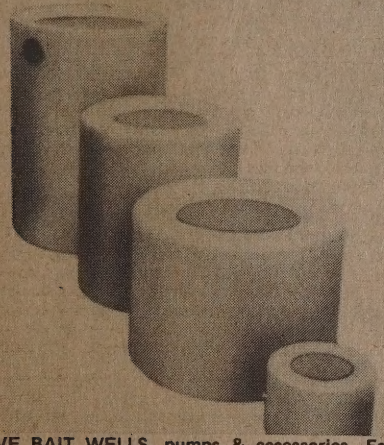

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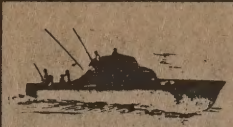

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